

S C H E M E

FOR THE
EMPLOYMENT
OF ALL
PERSONS sent as DISORDERLY
TO THE
HOUSE OF CORRECTION in Clerkenwell;

S H E W I N G,

- I. That the profits of their labour will find them in a sufficiency of food.
- II. Pay the keeper an annual salary. And
- III. Defray the other expences and necessary repairs of the said GAOL.

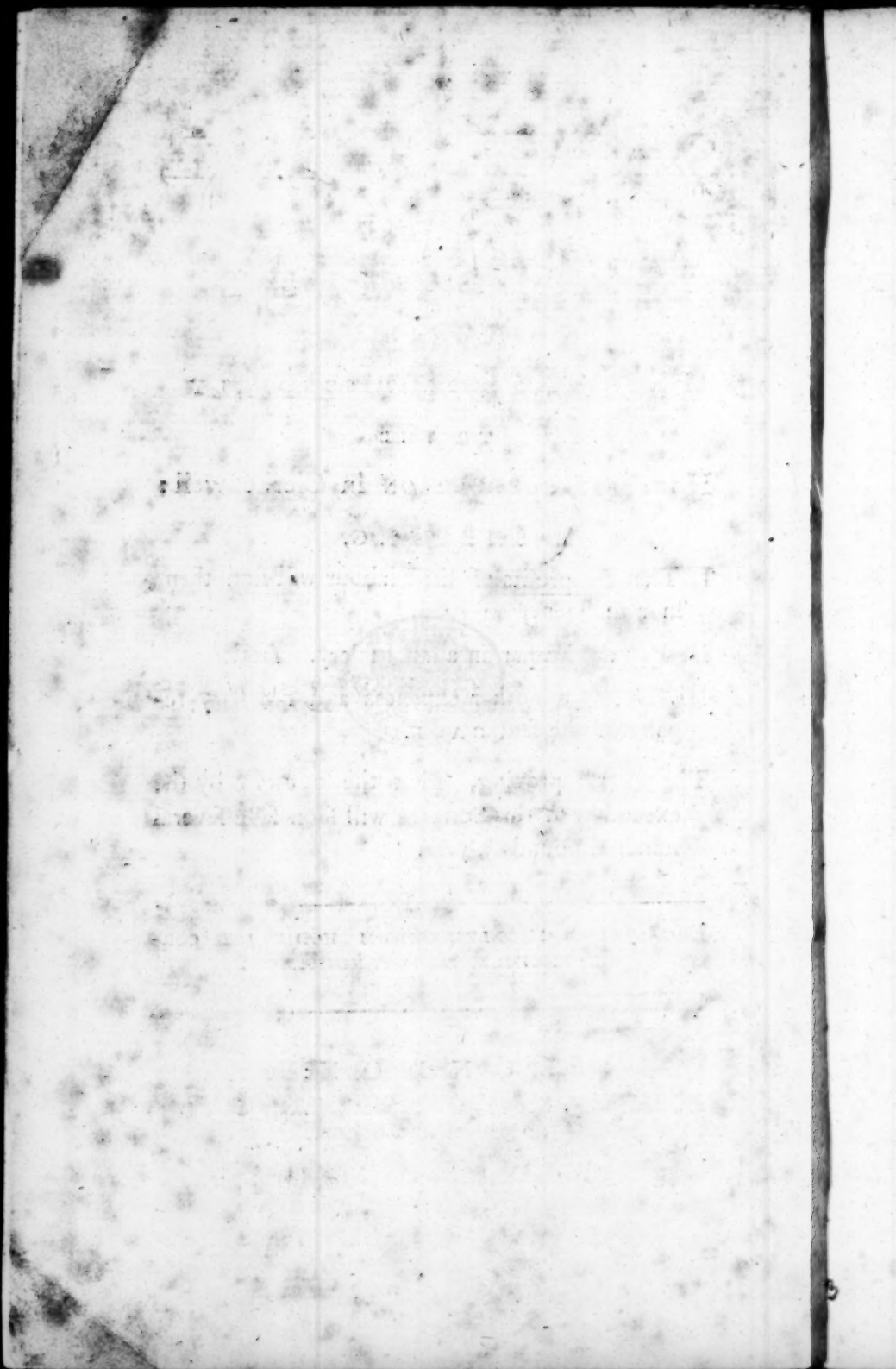
The whole proving, That the COUNTY by the execution of this SCHEME will soon save several hundred pounds a-year.

ERGASTULUM MIDDLESEXIANUM HODIE EST CORRUPTISSIMUM AC NEFANDISSIMUM.

L O N D O N:

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[Price One Shilling and Six-Pence.]



T O T H E
JUSTICES of the peace of the county
of MIDDLESEX.

This S C H E M E is inscribed.

G E N T L E M E N,

THE following S C H E M E was drawn up whilst its author was a prisoner in your house of correction in Clerkenwell, and then designed immediately for the press; but for some reasons, not worth troubling you or the reader with, the publication has been postponed till now.

THE author has the dear-bought vanity to say, That there is no man living so capable to advise in the reformation of this or any other gaol, in which he has been imprisoned, (for writing, printing and publishing a letter wrote by him to the reverend doctor Thomas Sherlock, intitled: "Modest remarks on the bishop of London's several discourses preached at the Temple church:") than himself; because of his experience, and of the observations he daily and hourly made during his long and severe confinement. He was three months a prisoner in his majesty's gaol of New-

gate, for want of bail; seven or eight weeks in the King's Bench prison in Southwark, before he received his sentence; and sixteen months in your's afterwards.

DURING his confinement in your's; from observing the debauched, starving and oppressed state of his fellow-prisoners, he was induced to publish, in the summer of the year 1757, a little book, which he dedicated to your worships, intitled, "Reasons offered for the reformation of the house of correction in Clerkenwell." Which he did purely to inform you of the miseries, debaucheries and oppressions rise in your house of correction, and to prevail on you, (for it is, he very well concluded, in your power) to rectify them. But though it has not met with the desired effect as yet, it gives him great pleasure to find, that the public have universally applauded the design. This appears from the extracts made from, and the commendations bestowed on it, in the London Chronicle, the Gentleman's Magazine, and the General Review, soon after publication.

AGAIN, it cannot be said, that your worships have not been acquainted of the hardships and oppressions, with which your gaoler and his mirmidons have harrassed and oppressed the poor prisoners committed to custody, since you received from the author the following letters to inform you thereof; and which are here inserted, that the reader may see the arguments and motives then made use of, to induce you to reform a gaol, which in itself was then and is now the most cruel and inhuman place upon the face of the earth!

THE first letter was sent your worships on Thursday, the sixth of April; and is as follows:

To

To the worshipful the Chairman, and the rest of the Justices of the peace met at Hicks's-Hall.

Gentlemen,

THE design of the following letter is, to lay before you an account of some few (out of the many) of the hardships and miseries, the confined in this gaol undergo, from your allowing your keeper the oppressive privilege of taking from them certain arbitrary and illegal fees. Done in order to induce you to follow the laudable and humane example of the citizens of London, who in last July took from their keeper of the Borough Compter in Southwark his fees, and gave him in lieu thereof an annual salary. — Could you, gentlemen, be as sensible of the hardships and miseries, which I am now about to recite, as I am, who have been an eye and ear-witness of them, you would not let this present sessions of the peace pass (much less the ensuing) without taking from your keeper, the privilege (or necessity) of exacting or extorting fees, and giving him in lieu thereof a sufficient salary.

The first I shall instance in, is, the hardships of paying night-fees. And these are of two sorts, the first on the party who may be able to pay; and the second on him or her who is not able to pay. The second is of the greater fees; which also are of two sorts; the first on the party paying, and the second on the party not able to pay.

First general instance. Of the hardships arising from the extortion of night-fees are the two following:

I. Of the night-prisoner who was (or may be) able to pay. It is of a man, who on Christmas-day went from the town in the afternoon to see his friend or friends at Hoxton, where he staid
till

till nine of the clock at night, and had drank somewhat freely. Coming home through the road, the watchmen seized him, and carried him to the watch-house, where they kept him about two hours teizing him for drink. At length, the constable being an alehousekeeper (for most are such in the out-parts;) and it being found that the man did not bleed freely, as it is termed, the constable carried him to ~~the constable's friend~~, and who should that be, but to mr. Wallbank's, that is to Bridewell; for you must know that most of the constables are no more than whippers-in to this gaol. He was brought hither about twelve or one of the clock, where it cost him one shilling to the keeper for his bed, six pence to the keeper's servant for his ward-dues, which he never fails to ask for, and get if possible. In the morning, it cost him six pence for a breakfast, a shilling to one of your keeper's servants to send for his friends, and another shilling for wine and beer. About eleven of the clock he went before his worship, who lived at Islington, to be examined. What he spent on the constable, his accusers, the keeper's servant, &c. at Islington, I could not learn, so I shall not set any thing down for that, though it could not be less than two shillings. His worship reproved him for being out late and getting fuddled, when he paid his clerk a shilling, and was by his worship discharged. On which leaving the justice, your keeper's servant demanded of this man five shillings and two pence. This whole affair picked the night-prisoner's pocket of ten shillings and two pence, besides the two shillings I supposed to be the expence at Islington, before and after the examination. To this I doubt not, but your keeper will object and say, that he never did take more for a night-fee than four shillings and two pence. I allow it; but his servant always adds to his master's

ster's fee one shilling, to which one shilling he thinks he has as much right for his trouble in getting up to let a night-prisoner in, and in the morning to carry him before the justice, as your keeper has to his night-fees.

II. Of the night-prisoner, he or she, who was or may not be able to pay night-fees. It is of one Allen a mantua-maker brought hither late on a Saturday-night, by a constable, as a night-prisoner, charged by a woman with having feloniously pawned a gown she had given Allen to make. Allen continued here all Sunday; and on Monday being carried before mr. Welch was honourably discharged. His worship it seems observed to the keeper's servant, the hardship of demanding of Allen night-fees, worthy of that magistrate. This had not the desired effect, whereupon the keeper's servant brought back to gaol Allen, where she remained, for the said night-fees, lying on the boards till the Thursday following. She lived in great distress, without food upwards of forty hours, when she was relieved by one of her fellow-prisoners, and at his instance turned out, about noon, by mr. Jones.

Second general instance. The second is of the greater fees, which also are of two sorts :

I. Of the prisoner able to pay his or her fees. Thursday, February twenty-third, two men, who had been prisoners in New Prison, were sent, by the court at Hicks's-Hall, hither to be whipped. They were both accordingly whipped. This being done, the keeper's servant demanded of each person, so whipped, eight shillings and two pence. One of these men was a labourer to a plaisterer, and the other was a taylor. The labourer had a wife and three children. The wife applied to the keeper's servant first in mitigation of fees, but that he would hear nothing of ; then she proposed
to

to him to leave so many cloaths in his hands till redeemed as he should think fit in lieu of fees; but to this he replied, I am but a servant, I never take any pawns, but you may go, there are pawn-brokers enough in the neighbourhood. Whereupon the poor woman, leaving the child she had in her arms with a woman in the tap, in the utmost distress I think I ever saw one, immediately went home, brought her husband's old frock, and then he stripped himself, she took away his cloaths, and in about half an hour returned with the money, paid the extravagant and oppressive fees of eight shillings and two pence, and having drank a pot of beer they departed. Now this man was not committed to this prison, he only received his punishment here: what right had your keeper to his fees? O cruel oppression, why should it be suffered!

II. Of the prisoner not able to pay his or her greater fees. Of this sort there are innumerable instances. One will suffice. James Ross, a Scotchman, was committed about the beginning of March last by Mr. Tashmaker for being found in a hay-loft, sleeping there all night, and for not giving a satisfactory account in what manner he maintained himself. His worship sent his discharge on Monday, March the twentieth; and the keeper kept him for his fees till Friday following about two of the clock, when he turned him out. This man had no friend that came near him, had nothing to live on but the county allowance, and what little scraps his fellow-prisoners gave him. I have seen him eat the parings of potatoes, &c. When he was without the county allowance, which was from Monday to Friday he lived upon the charity of the gaol.

February the twenty-fifth, last day of sessions, divers men and women were discharged by you,
and

and were brought back hither by your keeper for their fees; seven of them without bread from the Friday noon before, and turned out Wednesday following about noon, and seven others were turned out on the third of March following. And tho' your keeper thus starved and harrassed these poor creatures he made no more of them, than three shillings of one, and four shillings of a young man, who was obliged to pawn his coat to pay the same. Query, Whether your court did not make a rule or order, when you gave the keeper fifty pounds a-year, that he should not keep persons not able to pay fees more than two days, or forty-eight hours? I have heard so, but whether the report be true, I leave with you.

I will conclude with the following questions, which I hope your worships will regard.

First, Why should not the common prostitutes, in the county of Middlesex, be used with the same humanity and tenderness, the common prostitutes in the city of London are?

Secondly, If the citizens of London have taken from their keeper his fees, and given him a salary in lieu thereof, why should not the magistrates of Middlesex do the same? Can there be given any just reason to the contrary?

Thus have I laid before you a short specimen of the many hardships and miseries the imprisoned undergo from your allowing your keeper (Henry Wallbank) to take, exact and extort from them unreasonable and illegal fees. If you were to take from him these fees, the evils complained of would be rectified; for then every prisoner will be turned out at the end of his imprisonment, and not be kept here, as they are now, starving without either county allowance, or any friend to assist them.

I am your's, &c.

THE second is dated May the eleventh, 1758; and is couched in the following terms :

To the worshipful the Chairman, and the rest of the Justices of the peace met at Hicks's-Hall.

Of the unreasonable and cruelty of suffering beer to be sold in your gaol at four pence a pot.

Gentlemen,

THIS, together with the miserable and unhappy state of the passes, I intend to be to the subject of the present letter to you.

You will excuse me, if I say, I lie under a very great disadvantage in writing to you, because your keeper has so prejudiced you against me, that you have hitherto seemed to despise and condemn my advice. However, I cannot help proceeding, because I do this not for my own interest or emolument, but in behalf of persons oppressed from the bad constitution of this gaol, (which you are able to remedy) who have not the opportunity nor ability to speak for themselves.

No soon was I re-committed hither, but I pulled out my memorandum-book, and noted the time; it was on Thursday the twenty-fourth day of November last. I was received by my keeper with oaths, execrations, reproaches and menaces; and immediately I was set to hard labour. This I own I expected from him for that honest freedom I had taken, to propose to you, the reformation and reconstitution of this gaol upon the city-plan.

Being thus impounded in your gaol, a little time gave me opportunity to enquire, what good effect my book of REASONS had on your conduct in relation to the reformation of it; but I could

not perceive the least trace of that reformation I had proposed to your worships, nor could I learn, that your worships ever intended to prevent the debaucheries, and other miseries of the prisoners confined here. A day had scarce passed, when I could not help enquiring, Who were those ragged persons brought in continually by beadles, &c. I was answered, They were poor persons brought hither in order to be passed to their several legal settlements, by the contractor. This term contractor, I did not at first understand; and when I did, I found he was a new-created officer, as yet altogether unconstitutional. — A few days after gave me a farther insight into this affair, I observed one of the keeper's servants paying about twelve or fourteen of these passes two pence a-piece. How, said I, what is the meaning of this? when I was one of the overseers of the poor in the parish of saint Botolph Aldersgate, we used to allow six pence to every poor person for subsistence till or while he or her could be passed. Is the act that gave each person six pence a-day subsistence repealed? The answer was, No. Surely, said I, it must, their worships never would make an order contrary to so plain a statute. Through a friend, I obtained a sight of the order, and found it was dated Thursday the fourteenth day of July in the year 1757. Convinced that your worships had made such an order, though no city, borough, town-corporate, corporation, or body of justices whatever, have, by the statute law of this realm, power to make orders, by-laws, regulations, contrary to, or repugnant to any one act of parliament in being. I waited the consequence; I daily heard (with great grief) the incessant cries and complaints of these poor wretches, starving in extreme sharp cold weather, and lying on the bare boards without even the convenience of straw.

This led me to enquire of several of these poor creatures, How they were used in their passage through other counties? They gave me the following account of their usage with one voice: We have six pence a-day allowed us for subsistence, or good and sufficient food, and at night flock or straw beds; and in case they are not to be had, clean straw to lie on. I could not help exclaiming, that the present usage of passers was cruel in regard to the wives and children of persons, either impressed or enlisted into his majesty's service, to fight for the defence of this kingdom, its rights and liberties! — Well, said I, all these, and the two following hardships arise to these passers from the order of the fourteenth of July last, who knows but your worships may, on this my letter, rescind it.

To shew the fatal effects of this order, and how it conduces to oppress, starve, and kill many of his majesty's subjects, I shall here relate the following fact, viz.

James Buckland, a pass, was brought hither on Friday the sixteenth of March last, soon after the contractor had set out for Ridge that day; so that this man was to remain here till the following Friday before he could be passed; but on the Thursday following he died through want. He died, say, through want and hard usage; he was near sixty years of age, the weather being very sharp and piercing, and he lying on the floor, on the bare boards, and having only two pence a-day, and that not the first day, allowed him for subsistence, he died here. Is two pence a-day, when provisions are so dear, a sufficient sum to support a person? No, says the legislature; for, according to the statute, every poor person passing is allowed six pence a-day for his support. And why your worships made an order, on the fourteenth of July

1757, to reduce the statute subsistence of six pence a-day to two pence, I cannot find out, unless it be to starve the poor to save the county expence. Are you wiser than the legislature of this kingdom? I trow not.

By this your worships may see the unhappy consequences of your illegal order.

To this cruel and barbarous usage, another great extortion is added by your keeper, or his servant. These poor passies are obliged to pay four pence a pot for their beer; this robs them of a fourth part of the two pence you allow them. Why you suffer your keeper, or his servant, to sell beer here to the prisoners at the extravagant and oppressive rate of four pence a pot I cannot conceive.

Beer was sold at this rate in the gaol of Newgate some years ago; but on one Tuesday, the prisoners therein confined, petitioned the court of aldermen, when that body immediately enquiring into the allegations of the said petition, and that day, (that very day) made an order, that beer should from that time be sold at the market-price of three pence only; which has been ever since observed.

Now, gentlemen, whilst you read this, imitate the magistrates of London; make this day a like order, for the sale of beer within this gaol at the market-price of three pence a pot. You have the same power to reform this grievance the city magistrates have, and it is equally your duty.

I shall conclude with the following words, which I have copied out of a book the most read of all books:

Let the sorrowful sighing of the prisoners (and of the passies) come before you; before you whom his majesty has appointed to relieve the oppressed, and to administer justice and mercy to his subjects in this his province of MIDDLESEX.

Rectify,

Rectify, I beseech you, my brethren, these errors of your predecessors; establish for the future good order, and reform this gaol; prevent the debaucheries thereof, which can no other way be done, but by a total separation of the men from the women, as in the city-house of correction; and there is, nor can there be, any objection against such a division of this gaol, but that of: It will take from your keeper his BAUBLE of a garden; provide for the future prisoners a sufficiency of food, that no one hereafter be starved in this gaol; and take away from your keeper his fees. Remove, I say, these grievances, that these EVILS may not be told in Gath, nor these ENORMITIES published in the streets of Askalon!

I am your worships humble servant.

UPON what has been said, the author begs leave to observe, that whatever evil, extortion or oppression is in the power of the magistrate to prevent, he should take the first opportunity to do; for that is one of the chief and principal duties of his office, and indeed is the fundamental reason of his institution.

THIS leads him to remark on the negligence of the county magistrates who presided in the reign of king James the first, when this house of correction was first constituted. If they constituted this gaol according to the true intent of the laws then in being it follows, that subsequent magistrates have suffered it to degenerate. But that the reader and you may see in what manner they ought to have constituted this gaol, and likewise in what manner you ought to reform and reconstitute it, the author has here recited several extracts from an act of parliament made in the seventh year of the reign of king James the first, viz.

THE

THE act, after having set forth the necessity of erecting houses of correction for the employment and reformation of idle and disorderly persons, adds: "And be it enacted by the authority afore-
 " said, That the said rogues, vagabonds and idle
 " persons, during such time as they shall continue
 " and remain in the said house of correction, shall
 " in sort be chargeable to the county for any al-
 " lowance, at their bringing in or going forth, or
 " during their abode there, but shall have such and
 " so much allowance as they shall deserve by their
 " own labour and work."

FROM this clause, the duty of the magistrate, relative to persons committed to houses of correction, fully appears as to the four following particulars, viz.

1. THAT he the magistrate should take especial care, that no one person committed to the house of correction shall be any way chargeable to the county.

2. THAT he the magistrate should in the second place take especial care, that the labour or work of the person so committed shall be applied towards his or her maintenance, and to no other use or purpose whatsoever, during the time of his or her confinement.

3. THAT he the magistrate should also take particular and especial care, that nothing should be taken or exacted of such idle and disorderly persons so committed, by any keeper, gaoler, or other person whatsoever, either at the coming in or going out of the said prisoner; because no such power is given him, either by this or any other act whatever.

4. THAT

4. THAT the magistrates of the county should find the persons so committed as disorderly in work, and keep them to work, in order that the profits of their labour should find them, during their abode in prison, a sufficiency of food.

OBSERVATION. This should have been the constitution of your gaol according to the law of the land, and according to the unbiaffed and disinterested dictates of humanity and common sense.

BUT as is observed before, either through negligence in your forefathers, or through that total degeneracy and corruption which has since crept into society, the present constitution of your gaol is quite contrary to the above law, which was made to prevent the very errors preceding magistrates have fallen into. For,

1. AT present, every person committed as idle and disorderly to your house of correction is a charge and burthen to the county, and all together, in the course of a year, cost the inhabitants of the county of Middlesex some hundred pounds, and this contrary to the exprefs words of the act of parliament, to the great burthening of this county; and which, by the execution of the following SCHEME, may be avoided.

2. REASON, humanity, and the common law of this kingdom, have appropriated the labour and work of the committed towards their support. How dared former magistrates to suffer the profits of their labour to sink as a fee into the hands of the keeper, when this statute had positively and plainly directed them to apply it to the support of the idle and disorderly during imprisonment!—
You, gentlemen, cannot discharge the duty you solemnly

solemnly owe to your king and country, without restoring the profits of the labour of the committed to the uses appointed by act of parliament.

3. You see plainly by the express words of this statute, that neither your forefathers, nor their keeper, nor any other person whatsoever, have power to take or exact any sum of money by way of fee, garnish, or other pretence, of any person committed to this gaol. Has it not therefore been, in your predecessors, a great oversight to countenance and suffer the keeper to extort fees, or pretended dues, from every one going out of custody? But,

4. THIS act empowers the magistrates of counties, cities, and towns corporate, to employ the committed, not for the advantage of keepers, gaolers and their dependents, but for the maintenance of the committed themselves. Therefore former magistrates have blundered egregiously; but it is not too late for you to enforce the act, and reconstitute this gaol upon the plan thereof.— It is your duty to do it, and though you may for some trifling reason suspend the execution at present; yet, it is not doubted, but you will shortly recover yourselves, open your eyes, and no longer be rid by a gaoler, and governed by the corrupt and unanimous voice of him and your other servants, who seemingly like the pilot at the helm of a ship, steer your which way they please.

BUT as though the wisdom of the legislature foresaw, how prone keepers would be to the wicked exaction of pretended dues and fees; and that in this case no keeper should in any wise rely upon the committed or imprisoned for a sufficient reward

ward for his care and stewardship, it follows in a subsequent clause of this act, in what manner the magistrates of counties should provide for the maintenance of keepers.

“ And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid,
 “ that the master or keeper of such house of cor-
 “ rection shall have such sums of money yearly
 “ and every year, as shall be thought meet (for
 “ the discharge of his office) by the most part of
 “ the justices of the peace, within the said county
 “ at the quarter sessions of the peace, the same to
 “ be paid quarterly before-hand.”

THE money to be raised for this, and all other purposes specified in this act, the justices are directed and empowered to raise by a county-rate. This proviso was inserted in this act on purpose to shew, that the keeper was not to reap the least advantage from the prisoner, either by his labour, or by his payment of fees.

AGAIN, the legislature sensible, that among vagabonds, idle and disorderly persons, destined to be imprisoned for the future in houses of correction, there would unavoidably be a number sick, diseased and distempered, have thought proper to insert the following clause on purpose for their relief.

“ AND be it farther enacted by the authority
 “ aforesaid, that the said justices shall relieve all
 “ such rogues, vagabonds, idle and disorderly
 “ persons as shall happen to be weak and sick in
 “ their custody.” The act specifies particularly, that this humane charge is to be defrayed by a county-rate.

YOU see here in what manner the statute has provided for those who shall happen to be committed

mitted to your gaol sick, or when there shall happen to fall sick. Far otherwise is the present practice, if any one falls sick in your gaol, which frequently happens, there is no notice or care taken of the party; unless it is to prevent the charge that will accrue to the county by the burial of the person dying in prison, and then the custom is to go to the justice who committed the sick party, get a discharge, and then the sick person is led between two out of the prison.

IT is not to be doubted, but the legislature, in the above clause, had a particular eye and regard to the circumstances and condition of a lying-in woman, that she during her incumbency should not want for necessaries. In this case, the present cruel custom, (which reflects great dishonour upon this county) is, to leave the poor distressed woman after delivery to the charity of her friends and the gaol; and if it was not for their aid many would perish.

GENERAL observation on the above statute, There is not a word in this act that gives the master or keeper of any house of correction power to exact fees of any prisoner he discharges out of his custody.

AT the desire of a particular friend, the author begs leave to subjoin the paper of *QUERIES* he sent your worships on Thursday in April Sessions in the year 1757.

QUERIES humbly offered to the serious consideration of the worthy magistrates and inhabitants of the county of Middlesex, relative to their house of correction in Clerkenwell.

I. **I**S not the house of correction at Clerkenwell the greatest bawdy-house in this county?

And how are the debaucheries hourly, daily and nightly committed therein to be prevented, but by an entire separation as in other gaols, of the men from the women, during their confinement and hard labour, and by a total prohibition of their lying together in the keeper's beds, under the specious pretences of man and wife?

II. Whether the keeper of a house of correction hath a legal right to detain in his custody, persons, whose times of imprisonment have been expired, under pretence of exacting from them certain arbitrary fees and pretended dues customarily paid to himself and predecessors?

III. Hath not such a claim to the taking of fees often led the keeper to detain in his custody many prisoners till they are almost starved, as has often been the case in this prison, if the testimony of a great number of credible persons may be relied on?

IV. Did not the worthy magistrates of Middlesex, a few years ago, grant to the keeper, the sum of fifty pounds yearly, in lieu of the fees of such distressed prisoners as should not thereafter be able to pay; and moreover order, "That no person should be kept in durance for fees more than forty-eight hours, after the expiration of the time of his, her, or their imprisonment." And hath not the keeper since that time kept discharged prisoners for fees a week, ten or twelve days, nay, a fortnight and more?

V. Is it not sufficient punishment for a disorderly woman, to be sent to the house of correction for a month, and there kept to hard labour, have no other allowance save a pennyworth of bread a day, and to lie every night upon the bare boards; but she must have after all, the extravagant and exorbitant fees of seven shillings and two pence to pay to the keeper before she can obtain her liberty?

VI. What

VI. What right has the keeper to exact of each prisoner lying in a bed, one shilling for the first night, and six pence a night for every night after?

VII. What right has the keeper to hinder any prisoner from bringing in his or her bed and bedding (as every prisoner may freely do in his majesty's gaol of Newgate, and in every other gaol in the kingdom) and use them during his or her imprisonment, without the least let or impediment whatsoever?

VIII. What can justify a gaoler in searching the several wards of his prison, and take from thence pieces of old rugs, blankets, sail-cloths, or other linnen or woollen rags and clouts the prisoners use to sleep on, order his servants to cut them in pieces to make mops, burn, or otherwise destroy them?

IX. Whether the keeper has a right to deprive the prisoners of the use of fire, (if they purchase the materials themselves) by stopping up the two chimnies, the worthy magistrates of the county had provided for them?

X. Is it not a great scandal and shame to the county of Middlesex, that the magistrates do not provide a sufficiency of food, (as is done by the magistrates of London in the like case) for the support of their prisoners, that they, as many have been, be not starved. And have not five poor prisoners died in the said gaol, in the space of so many months, through the inclemency of the season, lying on the bare boards, and through the want of proper care and a sufficiency of food?

XI. What reason can be assigned, why the magistrates of Middlesex do not settle on their keeper a sufficient salary for the discharge of his office, that so he may not, as he now is, be obliged to

to extort fees from prisoners for his own support and maintenance?

XII. What reason can be assigned, why sixty-five or seventy women are nightly confined within two small wards, whose contents both together are no more than seven yards and an half square, to the great detriment of their healths, and which undoubtedly is the occasion of that continual sickness that, from time to time, rages amongst them?

XIII. Whether the annual additional expence of providing a sufficiency of food for the support of such offenders as are committed to the house of correction in Clerkenwell, will (after the charge of the proposed reconstitution and enlargement of the said prison for the separation of the men from the women be defrayed) exceed the sum of four hundred pounds?

XIV. How long is it since any one or more of the worthy magistrates of the county of Middlesex visited the house of correction in Clerkenwell; attended a private whipping there, enquired into the state thereof, heard the complaints of the prisoners, and redressed their grievances?

XV. Are there not innumerable reasons and motives to induce the worthy magistrates of the county of Middlesex immediately to set about reforming, reconstituting and re-establishing their house of correction in Clerkenwell upon the same principles, and in the same manner with the houses of correction in the city of London?

XVI. Why should any other offenders except for hard labours be committed to the house of correction in Clerkenwell?

XVII. Are not the evils, oppressions, extortions and debaucheries of this house of correction, and every other house of correction in this kingdom, worthy

worthy of parliamentary enquiry and reformation?

LASTLY, the author of the following Scheme begs leave of your worships and the reader to make one observation, how far he has succeeded in abolishing arbitrary, oppressive and illegal fees, and pretended dues, both as they relate to gaols, and to other places.

THE first he would mention is, that which followed soon after the publication of his book of REASONS which was early in June 1757, on the election, at a court of common council, for a bailiff of the borough of Southwark, on the first of July following, when the right honourable the lord mayor, (MARSH DICKENSON, (A) Esq;) previously

(A) It must here be remembered, to the everlasting honour of this worthy magistrate, that when he was one of the sheriffs of this city and county of Middlesex, he received from the prisoners in Newgate a complaint, which he immediately redressed, coming to the prison in his own person, and there calling for the complainants, the keeper, and his servants.—The case was this: The prisoners had long laboured under the great inconveniency of being served with bad strong beer (I think they call it here hog-wash, that is, strong beer mixed with small beer, hot water, &c.) from the tap in that gaol; of which usage they had often complained both to the tap-keeper, the turnkey, and perchance to master gaoler himself. But without remedy. Hereupon, the injured and abused prisoners procured a friend to fetch them some strong beer, out of the prison, from a neighbouring alehouse; but what was the consequence, when the party came with the beer it was refused entrance; and the beer was obliged to be carried back again, and the party of whom it was bought entreated to return the money. Several times afterwards did they attempt to bring in strong beer, but they were as often obstructed.—Hereupon the prisoners wrote a letter complaining of this usage to the gaoler, and caused it to be delivered at his house, but this for want of a peculiar form or compliment in the superscription, address, &c. failed. They then procured a
Friend

viously moved, that the fees usually heretofore paid to the bailiff of Southwark as keeper of the prison of the Borough Compter should be taken from him, and that a sufficient salary should be given him in lieu thereof. Accordingly the court ordered, That for the future the keeper of the Borough Compter in the bailiwick of Southwark, in the county of Surry, should not take fees or other dues or demands whatsoever, from any one committed to his custody, either on his commitment, during his stay there, or on his or her discharge. This resolution, the court ordered to be printed, and copies thereof to be pasted up in several parts of this gaol.

2. IN the December following, at a general court of the governors of saint Thomas's Hospital,

friend to call on the gaoler to acquaint him with the ill usage they had met with, and to put him in mind of the statute of the second of his present majesty, which gave the prisoner the privilege to send for his beer to any neighbouring alehouse, without the let, hindrance, or impediment of him, his servants, or of any other person whatsoever; but the person attending went many times to no purpose, nor could the gaoler ever be caught at home, for his business was smothered; (as the knowing-ones here term it) and therefore met the gaoler could not be spoke with; however, at length, the messenger from the prisoners shot him (as the term is) flying; when he acquainted him with the complaint of the prisoners. Pish, said the gaoler, if one was to mind every complaint of the prisoners we should have enough to do, sir; I am sure, there is as good beer sold at the tap in my prison as can be had elsewhere; and I am sure, if the prisoners understand their own interest, it is theirs to have it there, because it is more convenient for them: when the gaoler skipping over a kennel, for they were now both in the street, and calling to an acquaintance, as the prisoners messenger supposed to get rid of what the gaoler counted in him rudeness and impertinence; the messenger not to be put off so, followed the gaoler, and pulling him by the sleeve reminded him of the act just mentioned, when the gaoler pished, and said, he had heard

tal, it was ordered, that for the future, neither the steward, nor his clerk, servant, or any other person acting under him, should take any sum of money for writing a petition, in order that the patient applying should receive the benefit of that charity, but that he the steward, or any person acting under him, should from and after that day, write the patient a petition, without fee or reward, or

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taking

heard of that act, but he believed it had done more harm than good.

The prisoners waited a long time the result of this conference between their gaoler and their messenger, but it was all to no purpose; out of the tap they could get up into the prison nothing but hog-wash; so that when a prisoner had a mind, when a friend came to see him, to be treated with a pot of good beer, to get the favour to be let down into the lodge, or tap-room, to drink it, where his friend was obliged to pay after the extravagant and oppressive rate of four pence (five and twenty per cent. more than the common or market-price) a pot for it. Now to complain to mr. gaoler was to no purpose, and that for this plain reason: he lets the tap to another for the lucrative sum of EIGHTY pounds a-year; and therefore he who rents it is by the gaoler suffered, in what manner he pleases, to oppress, insult and ill use the prisoners. Let it here be observed, that the rent of the tap (or the use of the lodge, with its appurtenances) which is eighty pounds a-year, is suffered by the city-magistrates to sink as a fee into the hands of this gaoler. Sure the gaol is the property of the city, and not of the keeper! If the rental of this wretched, dark and dismal place be worth eighty pounds a-year (a large and handsome estate, and which estate is not subject to repairs, land-tax, window-lights, or the payment of any other rates whatsoever) it should be paid to the city, and also the other profits of the gaol, as there are many; and a way found out by the magistrates to prevent a great number of his majesty's subjects from perishing in this gaol, for want of a sufficiency of food and proper care. O it well becomes the magistrates, and more especially the two sheriffs, to look into the inside of this place, see to the state of the gaol, and prevent the oppressions, extortions and cruelties, either of the gaoler, or his servants, or of both. Pardon, candid reader, this short digression.

taking any gratuity whatsoever. [It had been customary for the steward, or his servant, before this time to take, exact, and, if I may use the expression, extort, from every poor, sick and diseased person applying in order to receive the benefit of this charity, one shilling, for writing or filling up a petition for him or her.] It was likewise ordered, That whereas it had been customary for a sick patient
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At length, the prisoners tired out with the above ill usage, I mean, that of being served out of the tap, or lodge, with hog-wash; procured a stranger to go to a neighbouring alehouse, and procure them a gallon of strong beer; it was sent for to a house, the keeper of which was an acquaintance of one of the prisoners who joined for this beer, and the master of the alehouse was desired with one of his servants, to come with the said beer. Accordingly they did; but there was no admittance, the turnkies, runners, tapsters, &c. would not suffer it to pass through the lodge in its way to the prisoners who had purchased it; the prisoners strenuously asserted their right to the beer, as their undoubted right and privilege, while the turnkies, &c. vociferously swore and damned, that the beer should not come in, damning, sinking, blasting and affirming, that the beer in the tap was better than any could be bought elsewhere.

The prisoners hereupon, as soon as convenient might be, drew up a petition, letter, or address to the above worthy magistrate, complaining, 1. That the strong beer in the tap, or lodge, was so adulterated with water and four small beer, or such like other stuff, or sometimes taken out of tap-tub, that they could not drink the same. 2. That they being empowered by the act of 2 Geo. II. to send for their beer to any neighbouring alehouse, and to have the same brought to them into his majesty's gaol of Newgate, without the let or impediment or hindrance of the gaoler, his turnkey, servant, or any other person whatsoever; which they had done, but that the beer so brought in, according to the powers of the said act of parliament, had been often obstructed, either by the command of the gaoler himself, or else by the insolence of his servants. 3. That thereupon they had applied themselves for redress of this evil to the gaoler, but without the wished-for success. Wherefore the petitioners concluded, they were of necessity obliged to trouble his worship, in behalf
of

on his admission to pay three shillings and six pence; and for a foul patient to pay seven shillings, they should hereafter be admitted freely without the payment of such sums of money, fees or any other demand whatever.

3. THE lords commissioners of the admiralty offered on the thirteenth of March last in the Gazette, the sum of five hundred pounds, as a re-

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ward

of themselves and their fellow-prisoners, hoping, that he would take into his consideration, the prayer of their petition, and to grant them such relief as to his worship should seem meet.

The messenger, who carried this petition, which was signed by six of the prisoners in behalf of themselves and others confined in this gaol, went to the house of this worthy magistrate; but finding him not at home, and being informed that he was then at Guildhall in the council-chamber, he went immediately thither, and desired one of the officers to deliver the directed to the sheriff. It was accordingly done.

No sooner had the sheriff read the contents, but he communicated it to his brother sheriff, which when he had read, he shewed the said petition to the then right honourable the lord mayor. When the above worthy sheriff signified to his lordship that he would go then and enquire into the allegations of the prisoners petition. This was approved of by the chief magistrate. Whereupon the sheriff in his chariot soon arrived at Newgate, where he was little expected. But it will not be amiss here to observe the prudent conduct of this worthy magistrate; he did not first call for the gaoler; no: he called for the six prisoners who had signed the petition; who being come into the room where the sheriff was, he ordered the gaoler, turnkey, and other servants to withdraw; but the gaoler took this opportunity to insinuate to his master the sheriff, that he apprehended his worship's being alone with the prisoners might not be altogether safe with regard to his person. But this worthy magistrate replied, What do you mean, these gentlemen are all my prisoners, and I will be accountable for their conduct towards me;—for they well know that they are not prisoners at my procurement, but in obedience to the laws of this land, without which civil government nor the public tranquillity cannot be preserved.—

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ward for discovering persons guilty of acts of piracy on the high seas ; and then the commissioners subjoin, that the said rewards shall be paid to the discoverer or discoverers clear and free of all deductions whatsoever. It need not be said, that before this time, fees, dues, deductions, expedition-money and poundage used greatly to curtail rewards.

4. His

Upon which the gaoler and his servants were obliged to leave the room ; when the sheriff, calling his prisoners by their names, caused them to advance nearer to him than that respect and reverence they had for him would permit, he read to them the several allegations of their petition, and with the greatest humility and patience received from one of them, a long and particular detail of the cruel usage (as he himself styled it) they had undergone. Having proceeded thus far, he ordered the six prisoners to sit down on so many chairs on one side of the room, placing next him their speaker. Then he called for the gaoler alone ; when he related to him the complaint of the prisoners, and blamed his conduct in the strongest terms, said, that he had incurred the penalty of fifty pounds, by hindering the beer from being brought into the gaol, contrary to the express words of the act of parliament, and therefore he was determined that, for the offence, he should make the much injured prisoners satisfaction. The gaoler, in his reply, endeavoured to exculpate himself, by laying the fault upon his servants, solemnly affirming, that if he had known of such a refusal of beer being brought into the gaol, he would not have suffered it. The prisoners could not particularly charge the gaoler with the offence, but they could his servant, which they did by name. Then the sheriff ordered the servant to be brought in, who now was immediately obliged to plead guilty, and to submit himself to the mercy of the sheriff ; and then it followed, that the servant asked the prisoners pardon, and made them some satisfaction, by paying to them one guinea. Which being done, the sheriff obliged the gaoler and his servant solemnly to promise, that they would not offend any more in this particular for the future. Whereupon has followed to this day these two conveniencies to the prisoners, 1. That they have their beer from what alehouse in the neighbourhood they please, with-
out

4. His majesty was pleased lately to grant the governors of the London Hospital, a charter of incorporation; and the said charter passed through all the public offices without the payment of fees.

5. Two Hospitals have been founded since the publication of the above book, the one stiled,

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out the least hindrance. And, 2. That if they have it from the tap it is much better than it used to be.

I hope the reader will excuse the seeming prolixity of the relation of the foregoing fact, for the sake of its designed utility; which is to shew, that magistrates cannot be too vigilant in preventing and suppressing the oppressions and iniquities of gaolers. And likewise the relator hopes, that the city magistrates will indulge him, in reciting here two or three memorandums he made whilst a prisoner in his majesty's gaol of Newgate, containing certain general complaints of the prisoners there. Which complaints he copied from the mouths of prisoners, some who had been confined there two, three, four, five or more years.

First general complaint. The author had the misfortune to be sent a prisoner to this gaol by a warrant under the hand and seal of the right honourable the earl of Holderness, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, on the twenty-eighth day of February, 1756. for want of sufficient bail. Standing in the April sessions following, on the Friday in that week, at the gate in this gaol, two pails full of water gruel were brought up out of the lodge, and given to such poor prisoners as brought pots, pans, bowls, &c. to receive the same. Not having seen this ceremony before, the author enquired, whose gift it was? When he was answered, That it was at the charge of the city, and that the keeper of this gaol, or some other person, received of the city ten pounds yearly for this purpose. The greatness of the sum induced a desire of tasting the water gruel; but such stuff it was, that it must be said, that no one could eat it, but those who were starving; it was much worse than any made and used in the sick hospitals. It was said, that the prisoners had it twice or sometimes thrice a week in the winter sessions, and some of the same might now and then be given to the poor debtors in this prison. Upon the whole they concluded, that though the city gave for this use, ten pounds yearly, yet they affirmed, that of that sum scarce forty shillings were annually laid

THE MAGDALEN HOUSE, and the other, THE ASYLUM. In both which the servants, nor any other person whatsoever, are allowed to take so much as a half-penny by way of fee, gratuity, or otherwise, either on admission, during the stay, or on the discharge of any person receiving benefit from the said charities.

6. THE

laid out, and that the rest did sink into the keeper's pocket, or more likely into that of his servant whom he entrusts with the distribution of this charity. This produced a calculation, what quantity of good and wholesome water gruel might be made for the sum of ten pounds, and supposing that the whole sum was laid out, as was the design of the city, it would find a quart of water gruel for twenty prisoners, a quart for each prisoner, one day with another throughout the whole year. Now the relator of this complaint doth not know the veracity of the report, that the city pays the keeper, or some other person, ten pounds a-year to find the poor prisoners water gruel. It may be so. If it is so; let the city magistrates learn hence, that gaolers are not to be trusted with the disposal of money to be bestowed in charity. It would be far more useful and beneficial to the poor prisoners confined in this gaol, many of whom have no friends at all, if these ten pounds were given to them in meat, in the manner following: On every Tuesday as much good and wholesome meat as might be purchased for four shillings; and this meat to be sent into the gaol by the sheriff's butcher for the time being. This would put an end to the above fraud, and render this charity much more valuable. Four shillings would purchase sixteen or twenty pounds of good and wholesome meat; which let be divided by the butcher into pieces of eight ounces each; and distributed to such prisoners as are in want of the same, and particularly to those who have no friends to assist them.

Second general complaint. In the course of proceeding against me, the court of King's Bench, Westminster, sent me to be imprisoned one month in this gaol, to wit, from the twentieth of June for one month. Accordingly, the tipstaff brought me hither that day. A few days after a lady, it was said, had given to our keeper for the use of the poor prisoners five guineas, which she had directed to be laid out in butchers meat. I was at this time on the felons side. About noon one day several joints of meat, there might be seven
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6. THE prisoners in the King's Bench prison in Southwark, lately moved the court of King's Bench, Westminster, to be released from the payment of NINE PENCE a week chamber-rent, which had been exacted by the marshal in the old gaol. To this the marshal replied, that the chamber-rent was a considerable sum, and that if that fee was taken from him he should not be able to defray the
the

or eight were brought up, and cut out into pieces, and given to those who wanted, or would accept of it. It was all boiled, but so very stale, being bought, as was supposed, for cheapness, when it would keep no longer, or when the butcher had had a hanging market, as it is vulgarly termed, and therefore would sell it greatly under price. A day or two after this, towards evening, in the most sultry weather, were brought up several very stale undressed small joints of mear, and given to the prisoners, but the greater part of it was so very bad, that it was sent out of the prison, or flung down the necessary. It was now said and generally affirmed, that not more than two, out of the five guineas given by the lady, had been laid out, in purchasing the above joints of stale mear, which could not have cost more than three farthings, or at most one penny a pound, the rest of the money, which the prisoners would have to be, at least three guineas, had sunk in its way to them, into somebody's pocket. The prisoners recited to me, at this time, several instances wherein good people had given various sums of money to be applied to this most useful charity, as it really would be, was it but humanely and rightly managed, and that they were always served as above. Reflection: Gaolers, clerks, turnkies, &c. are the most improper persons to be intrusted with the disposal of charity-money, for they think it no crime to defraud the poor prisoners committed to their custody. It were to be wished, that when a gentleman or lady is willing to bestow a donation of meat (for they cannot do a better nor a more acceptable thing) on the poor prisoners confined in this gaol, they would either give the sum into the hands of the sheriff, and let him be desired to send the meat in, as is laid down in the above article relating to the water gruel; or to send their footman, or other servant, with twenty pounds of raw good and wholesome meat at a time, cut into pound or half-pound pieces, into this gaol, and let him see it distributed, according to the
intention

the expences and repairs of the gaol. But it being proved by several affidavits read in court, that the marshal gained annually from revenues, perquisites, and fees upwards of one thousand pounds, the court ordered, That the marshal should not thenceforward take of his prisoners, either yearly, quarterly, monthly, weekly or oftener, any sum of money for chamber-rent. The court seemed
to

intention of the donor. As the charities of this sort are now managed, they are of little use to the poor and distressed prisoners confined in this gaol.

General remark here. It relates to the ventilator. It seems since the mayoralty of sir Samuel Pennant, the city erected this machine, which it is said cost two thousand pounds. It is now, and has been long since, so out of repair, that it is of little use besides the annual charge it runs the city to, of paying a man about a crown a week, or about thirteen pounds a-year to look after it, and to set it going, which he carefully does eight times a-year. It is said, that it would have conduced more to the real service and health of the prisoners, if the city, in lieu of erecting this machine, gave the poor prisoners the interest of the said sum in physic and provisions; it would have saved many more lives than the ventilator has done. It is likewise said, that it will cost the city five hundred (perhaps nigh a thousand) pounds to put this machine into thorough repair, and then it is concluded, that it will not remain long useful. Many die within the walls of this gaol through want; and when a death happens, the coroner and his jury sets on the body, always find that the party died by the hand and visitation of God, and then the body is ordered to be buried. This is only a mere ceremony, and has in it very little utility.

Lastly, I cannot leave this subject, without here exhibiting my complaint against the keeper of this gaol, for his cruel and inhumane usage of me, on my return to his gaol, when sent thither by my sentence of the twentieth of June 1756, which I then received in the court of King's Bench at Westminster. " It was to be imprisoned one month in his majesty's gaol of " Newgate, and during that time to stand three times in the " pillory; that is to say, once at Charing Crosse in the county " of Middlesex; the second time at the Royal Exchange; " and the third at the corner of Chancery-lane in Fleet-street,
" both

to be of opinion, that the prisoners could not be chargeable for chamber-rent, since the house was built at the public charge. [This useful and charitable ORDER will reflect everlasting honour on the name of MANSFIELD, as being made during his CHIEF JUDICATE.] Who knows, but a short time, may so maturate REASON, as to find out a way, to pay the marshal a sufficient salary

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for

“ both in the city of London ; and at the end of that month
 “ to be removed from his majesty’s gaol of Newgate, to the
 “ house of correction in Clerkenwell, and therein to be imprisoned, from that time, for THREE YEARS, and there
 “ kept to Hard Labour ; and farther, at the expiration of the
 “ said term of three years, to pay to our sovereign lord the
 “ king a fine of six shillings and eight-pence, and to find
 “ sureties for your good behaviour for the remainder of life :
 “ and in case such sureties cannot be found, as this court shall
 “ approve of, then to be brought back again to his majesty’s
 “ gaol of Newgate, and therein to be confined for the remainder
 “ of life, or till such surety shall be found.” [Methinks, I
 hear it said, For what was this heavy, long and severe sentence
 passed on you ? This question will be best answered by reciting
 here the reason, the judge, who pronounced the above sentence,
 gave ; which was, as near as I can remember, to the effect following :
 “ You have been guilty of writing,
 “ printing, and publishing, a most b—f—p—h—m—s book,
 “ libel, or pamphlet, intitled, Modest Remarks on the Bishop
 “ of London’s Several Discourses preached at the Temple
 “ Church, and lately published in Two Volumes Octavo. In
 “ which you have weakly, though wickedly, endeavoured to
 “ ridicule and sap the foundations of the Christian religion,
 “ denying in a ludicrous manner the divinity of Jesus Christ,
 “ the son of GOD, the redeemer and saviour of the world.
 “ In short, you have impudently and audaciously denied
 “ the verity (I suppose he meant, the divinity) of ALL REVEALED
 “ RELIGION in general ; (and here the reverend judge breathed a little)
 “ THEREFORE this court hath ordered me to pronounce upon you, &c. as above.—] Loaded
 with this sentence, mr. Carter, the tip-staff, brought me to
 Newgate. Now the reader must know, that when I was committed
 hither, as is related above, on the twenty-eighth of February,
 for want of bail, I paid the gaoler thirteen shillings and six pence,
 which he demanded of me, under the term of

Entrance—

for the keeping of this gaol, and take from him the horrid burthen on the prisoners of paying fees, for the payment of which many are obliged to lie days, weeks, yea, and months; nay, many have died whilst they laid, though discharged of their several debts, especially in the old prison, for chamber-rent and fees. There are two things the magistrates cannot be too assiduous in inspecting into;

Enterance-Money, to go into a certain room called the master's side, and there to lodge during my confinement, and to pay him six pence a-night for the privilege of sleeping in one of his beds, and likewise the farther sum of six pence a week for the use of his sheets. All which I paid. The hardship I complain of is, that when I was recommitted, he demanded of me a fresh fee of thirteen shillings and six pence Enterance-Money, or I should not go on the master's side. It was at first imagined, that the gaoler would not have demanded of me a fresh fee, or entrance-money, because, it being on the same account I was recommitted, for which I was at first committed, it would be unreasonable. This general opinion of the gaol was kind, but my keeper was willing to add to the severity of my sentence this instance of his cruelty, barbarity and inhumanity towards me. He perhaps concluded, that it was highly improbable, especially considering my age, that I should live through the several parts of my punishment; and therefore he was for making the most of me. Indeed it was the general opinion, that I should not live through the time and long duration of my punishment. I might, they said, be murdered in the pillory at one or other of the places where I was to stand; it was hinted to me that I deserved such treatment from a justly enraged c—r—y; and when I reflected in what manner the clergy at Ephesus abused Paul, and how the archbishop and clergy of Alexandria murdered Hypatia, in the most cruel, inhuman and immodest manner, by dragging her by the hair of her head through the streets of that city, till she was dead: this and several other instances of the like nature, which occurred to me at this time, gave me sensible suspicions of my future safety. Without money, without friends, and under the severe displeasure of the law, I was obliged to go on the common side, and lodge amongst convicts found guilty of the worst of crimes. If my advice could be taken, the keeper of this, or any other gaol, should have no way given or permitted him, by the city-magistracy,

into; (though they are little thought of or regarded;) and they are: 1. To look into the inside of gaols, hear the complaints of the prisoners, and redress their grievances. 2. To look into the inside of mad-houses; there it is shrewdly suspected, they will find great and villainous abuses; husbands impounding their wives, friends their relations, companions their intimates, fathers their sons, &c. &c. The great increase of private mad-houses, of late years, gives room for great suspicion of collusion, I say of collusion and contrivance, between the keepers of these places, and the artful, iniquitous and designing part of mankind. These two things, in my opinion, are as well worth the enquiry of a committee of the house of commons, as the affair of Huggins and Bambridge, in the case of Arne, murdered by them, or their contrivance, in the Fleet. — [Is preaching necessary? is the performance of the divine offices reasonable? Yes: you will say. But were you to see the conduct of the chaplain of this prison, you would, thence judging, conclude, that they were neither necessary nor reasonable; for though I was a prisoner here, (I mean in the old gaol) seven or eight weeks, Sunday came after Sunday, and no service, till about the fifth, when one of the methodistical preachers read morning prayers and gave us a sermon: but the honest chaplain, during this whole time, gave us but one sermon, which he did in such a hurry, slovenly, indevout, hasty manner, as though he thought we

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were

gift-racy, to get or gain a penny by the prisoner, otherwise than by a settled salary; if this was the case, the keeper could not, as he now always does, by every artifice he can invent, fleece his prisoners. Gaolers should not be suffered to buy their places, nor should be chosen for life, but continued only during pleasure or good behaviour.

were not worthy to have the gospel preached unto us. On enquiry, it was found, that he never reads prayers on week-days, and very seldom either prays or preach on Sundays in the chapel of this gaol. Now this place is in the diocese of Winchester, and the bishop thereof should see, that divine service be regularly performed here, if he thinks it necessary and reasonable. I would advise, for the good of the prisoners, that his lordship would appoint a sober, devout and religious priest, not under forty years of age, to be chaplain of this prison, and that the said chaplain should every week-day read morning and evening prayers, and on Sundays preach in the morning and read prayers in the afternoon; for which let his lordship procure him from the judges of the King's Bench a sum not less than fifty pounds a-year. And also, for the good of all the souls of the Scotch, and of all the Protestant dissenters confined in this gaol, let any Protestant dissenting teacher in orders, come here on Sunday or other day in the week, not interfering with canonical hours, make use of the chapel, and therein pray and preach according to their method. Note, The teacher doing this duty is to have no salary. But to what purpose is it, for one, to find fault with this l—z—y chaplain, when the bishop in every diocese has long since left the most essential duties of his office to be performed by substitutes and officials! the dean has almost forgotten how to pronounce in the cathedral, I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, &c. the canon has deserted his stall! and the rector (or vicar) has forsaken his pulpit! insomuch that through the great number of livings held by dispensations, plurality, commendam, and other simoniacal contrivances, the best benefices in this kingdom are served by boys and half-starved curates. Some of the richest livings within twenty or forty miles of London are served in the following manner:

manner : Master rector of the country parish has either a living, chaplainship, or lectureship in town, or is there hunting preferment, or for his diversion, &c. and on a Sunday down comes a young spark booted and spurred, who in a very slovenly and wretched manner hurries over the prayers, and preaches about fifteen or twenty minutes; and in the afternoon reads prayers; and then mounts his nag, and hie for London again!—There was a reverend clergyman in the beginning of this century, a considerable dignitary, and held rich livings at the same time; he had the luck to be made a bishop, and in a charge he delivered to his clergy, inveighed bitterly against non-residency, plurality, &c. *Honores mutant mores.*

7. EVERY author has his vanity, which the indulgent reader, it is hoped, will excuse: I have often thought, that my book of REASONS first gave the notion to the judges going the Home-Circuit, to recommend to the grand juries of counties, the provision of a sufficiency of food for all those who lie in gaol under sentence of transportation; and accordingly, it has been affirmed, that in the county of Kent the transport receives, by order of the sheriff, once a-week, two shillings and six pence, for his support. The same custom has obtained in Essex; but elsewhere I have not learnt. Before this, several have perished through want, between the time of conviction and transportation. I hope their lordships will go through with this useful affair, and introduce this custom into all the counties in this realm.

8. THE last I shall mention is, that noble and exemplary order of the court of aldermen directing the town-clerk, not to take a fee or fees of any person offering to enlist in his majesty's service. This order was made on the fourteenth of August last;

last ; and is as follows : Resolved, That every person who shall be enlisted, in the Guildhall of this city, to serve his king and country, shall receive of the town clerk a certificate thereof under his hand, without fee or reward. And it is farther ordered, That every person having served his king and country, according to the resolution taken this day, shall, on application made by him to be admitted into the freedom of this city, be admitted thereto by the chamberlain of this city, without fee or reward. Note ; Why should not an apprentice, who has served seven long years, be admitted into the freedom of this city without fee or reward ?

This court rightly judged, that the exaction of fees was unreasonable, unjust and illegal ; and therefore they took away (or rather have not allowed them) the power of extortion and oppression in these two cases, from their chamberlain and town clerk. It is hoped, as the city-magistrates have made a beginning, they will proceed in so glorious a reformation, and no longer suffer their servants, or substitutes, to impose on their fellow-citizens. If the salaries of their servants are not sufficient to support them, or not adequate to the several services they do the city, let them be increased ; but there is no reason they should have large, ample, and princely allowances (as most of them have) and they should by fees, perquisites and oppression, gain in the year a sum double their annual salaries. It never was designed, when these officers were first instituted, that their several duties should be done by deputation, (forsooth, there must be now in a city-office, a deputy ; and under such deputy, a first and a second, if not a third clerk ; all whom as the business passes thro' their hands exact fees) but by themselves alone ; they attended to do such and such business for and
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on the behalf of the city; and they did it without having any other reward than that salary yearly paid them by the city. Fees are a corruption that has crept into society through artifice, villainy and design on the one hand, and through indolence, irresolution and laziness on the other.

HOWEVER, may not the above-recited instances give spirits to the author, and flatter him with hopes, that shortly the following transactions will pass without the least fee, tax or deduction whatsoever!! viz.

1. THAT the one thousand pounds his majesty gives annually to the poor of this city, will for the future be paid into the chamber of London, without the deduction of fees, (usually near a tenth part of the principal sum) and that the said money, when in the chamber of London, will likewise issue thence without the least deduction.

2. THERE is an unreasonable and very oppressive custom at Christmas on the swearing in of the constables of this city, when a certain servant thereof is suffered to exact and extort fees from them. Let this be remedied for the honour of this city.

3. IT was customary, on the getting a sick person into St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in case of death, to deposit the sum of twenty shillings in the hands of one of the clerks, to defray funeral charges. When the party was cured and discharged, then the depositor received back only nineteen shillings; the clerk stopped one shilling for his fee. Is not this a scandal? is not this a theft? and yet the governors of that hospital have for many years suffered it. It has been said, (but how true cannot be positively averred,) that by this iniquitous scheme there is gained a very considerable sum yearly;—for if the party dies, the clerk, or other person, gets fifteen shillings

shillings by it ; and if he lives he gets one. This gain has been reckoned, if deaths are frequent, at two or three hundred pounds a-year. It is true, the friend of the deceased party may have his body for burial ; and in that case the depositor receives back out of twenty shillings only thirteen ; the other seven are eat up by servants for pretended dues, fees and demands. All which, and several others that might be mentioned, are as illegal, as it is for one man to stop another on the highway, and rob him of so much money.

POLITICAL and municipal societies, and magistrates, were at first instituted for the good of all persons living a civic life. These magistrates then covenanted in their own persons to keep the peace, and to prevent one man from oppressing another. Indeed, in process of time, when multitudes of people flocked and resorted to cities, and settled therein, and the duties of the chief magistrate were so numerous, that he could not execute in person all of them, it became necessary for him to appoint a substitute ; and hence arose the number of corporation officers. Now when these officers were established, and become, in some sort necessary, the magistrate by degrees grew ignorant, very ignorant of those municipal duties he had committed to substitution. And these officers endeavoured to render those duties intricate, and in some kind mysterious, on purpose to keep to themselves the execution of their several offices. Insomuch, that at this day, the chief magistrate of a corporation is almost a mere cypher, the phantom (B) of state, big with honour, and swollen

(B) Some years ago a magistrate might these three ways gain the general commendation of his fellow citizens : (I wish I was now speaking ironically ;) 1. By setting the assize of bread to please the bakers, who being dispersed in every neighbourhood, street, lane, &c. did in every alehouse puff his l—d—p, and call

swollen with ambition, &c. but as for knowledge that is generally far from him. This being the case, municipal servants got large salaries from weak magistrates. At length these servants began of course to think as good, if not better, of themselves than of their masters, whom they now also began to stile their constituents;—for they had reduced the magistracy to such a state of ignorance, pride, state and indolence, that they could not do without them; and then forsooth they began to imagine their several duties too hard even for themselves to do; and therefore they, by their interest, obtained leave that they might have assistance. This was granted; and hence arose the several deputies, clerks and subalterns in the municipal offices; and soon after followed fees to be exacted and extorted for their support and maintenance; and thus the inhabitants of corporations came to be imposed on at first; which imposition has been greatly improved, till at length it is become intolerable and villainous. It was a great oversight in those magistrates, who presided when titles and equipages came first into fashion, to suffer their servants to assume the use of them; it is such an insolence that is far from being commendable; instead of being an honour to the corporation,

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tion,

call him good. 2. By keeping a good house, and filling the bellies of the city gluttons, they did say, swear and affirm, the goodness and generosity of the donor. 3. By not looking that the city placemen and servants did their duty; by going to church as seldom as possible that his arrogant and luxurious attendants might go to their country-seats, &c. they hate the magistrate that gives them, forsooth, the trouble often to wait on him. I remember a worthy magistrate they c—f—d heartily for his constant attendance on the divine offices. By these means the magistrate got the goodwill of the corporation servants, and they in conjunction with the bakers and gluttons did establish his good name, in every vicinity, and puffed him as an example to all future magistrates. *Experientia docet.*

tion, it is a reflection on it, and shews too plainly the verity of the old proverb, *Set a beggar on—* Servants should be made to know their places, and execute their several duties with diligence, industry and complaisance.

NOR doth this evil centre here; no: these officers harass and pick the pockets of the inhabitants of corporations by innumerable ways and methods. One must be mentioned that happened in the year 1735. A constable was absent on his watch-night. This being known to the c—y m—l, a quarrel was feigned by him and his men about two o'clock in the morning: for this neglect the constable was summoned before the then chief magistrate, who resided at Grocers-Hall; where these harpies picked the constable's pocket of twenty-eight shillings. This was a common practice then, and this officer used to keep in fee with watchmen, &c. in order to be informed when a constable was off of duty. This officer and his men are, according to their institution, to suppress street-walkers and disorderly houses; instead whereof they encourage both by taking of the keepers of such houses quarterly fees; which is a principal reason why in all the avenues which lead out of the high streets of this city, especially in the neighbourhood of its cathedral, there are so many of these kind of houses that this place may be said every night to be one great brothel. He likewise takes of every beadle quarterly fees to wink at them in case they are negligent in their duty.

THERE are proper officers who should put the laws in execution against all those who keep hogs, nanny-goats, pigeons, &c. yet though the streets swarm with these nuisances, and they are seen at noon-day, (a dozen hogs have been seen at a time in the streets of the New Market) yet their owners
being

being in fee with Mr. * * * the y—m—n of the c—n—l it is winked at: and thus the laws are made of no other use than to fill the pockets of servants and their substitutes.

THIS general corruption of municipal officers, it was once said, arose from their buying their several places. Now-a-days, he that gives most succeeds to any office, though he is no other way qualified but from the length of his pocket; nay, oftentimes he is so ignorant of the post he has purchased and undertaken, that he is obliged to hire others to discharge it. If I buy my place, I will make the most of it. It is mean in a city, to sell its power, to barter it for money. Far from this should be the method. On a vacancy a proper person should be chosen, he should have a salary adequate to the duty of his office, a sufficient recompence; but he should not be allowed to take fees; and if he was negligent, he should be removed, and another immediately chosen in his stead. But, if a man, as is customary, buys his place for life, he cannot be displaced, and therefore he will seek every opportunity to impose on all those persons who apply to him in the way of his office. Huggins and Bambridge gave to a certain great man a very considerable sum for the office of the warden of the Fleet; they affirmed, that they had a purchased right to make the most of their place by fees, (they used to exact of prisoners fresh fees for every action lodged against them after their first commitment, so that one poor prisoner has paid fees twice, thrice, four and more times;) chamber-rent, &c. but on the death of Arne, whom they starved, the matter became a parliamentary enquiry; the house was of opinion, that the place should not have been sold; and though sold, gave the purchasers no right to oppress

press the prisoners committed to custody; and hence arose the statute of 2 GEORGE II. Nay, before this time every judge of the court of common pleas received out of every day-rule three pence as a fee, which was now relinquished.

THERE is but one corporation in this kingdom, but what is ruled by its servants, and they a few years since shook off their roguery, tyranny and oppression together; and they are now served, as they should be, by honest and faithful servants. There are no purchased places in this corporation; they are all bestowed freely, and a firm resolution taken by the magistrates, that he who does not discharge his duty diligently and faithfully shall, on the least complaint, be removed.

To conclude, Gentlemen, the author of these pages assures you IN VERBO HOMINIS, that he is your worships well-wisher; hopes you will rectify the evils complained of, by adopting his SCHEME; has nothing more at heart than the good of all future prisoners, and the honour of this populous and opulent COUNTY.

FAREWELL.

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S C H E M E
FOR THE
Employment of Disorderly Persons.

I N T R O D U C T I O N.

WHEN I published my Reasons for the Reformation of the House of Correction in Clerkenwell in June 1757, which met with a kind reception from the public, I little thought of ever being re-committed to the said gaol, but so it happened, that Nathan Carrington, esq; one of his majesty's messengers, by order of the right honourable the Earl of HOLDERNESS, brought me back to that place, which in my Reasons I had before represented as the county-house of destruction, debauchery and inhumanity, to be again a companion of persons who are the very scum of this metropolis, whores, bunters, thieves (c) and pickpockets, and to be safely

(c) Houses of correction were not originally designed for the reception of felons; they were intended by our fathers for the correction and reformation of the manners of the idle and disorderly, by little chastisements and suitable labour.
Accordingly,

safely kept by One who had conceived the greatest aversion and hatred to me, on the account of that honest freedom I had heretofore taken to reform this gaol.

THE reason of this re-commitment I could not at that time by any means fathom; for I was conscious I had not offended afresh in spirituals, by either writing, printing or publishing any thing relative to revealed religion.

I HAD not been here scarce an hour and an half, when being in the tap, reading a proof of Dr. SMITH's Family Bible, but in came mr. Wallbank the keeper, who presently accosted me thus : D—n you, you rogue, are you come back again ? Yes, said I, the more my misfortune. D—n you, said he, why don't you go to work, meaning to hard labour. I replied, I was willing to go to work, but that I hoped he would permit me to finish the reading of the proof. On which he began

Accordingly, these houses were not built with that strength requisite for the safe custody of persons guilty of capital crimes. During my confinement, two persons were sent here accused (and it afterwards turned out that they were guilty) of capital offences. They were very uneasy under their confinement, and expecting nothing less than death, they often mentioned in my hearing, the weakness of this gaol, and the easiness with which they could make their escape. At length, they brought their scheme to a crisis, and had fixed the time of its execution, when my chum the night before, divulged the secret to me at midnight. I charged him the first thing in the morning, to lay before them the impracticability and impossibility of success in such a scheme. As for their crimes, said I, to be sure they are capital, and if they do not receive mercy they must die, and that is the only chance they stand; but if this scheme should not succeed, as it was an hundred to one whether it did, they would then on being taken certainly die. Tell them from me, that their youth will, if they behaved themselves well, recommend them to mercy, and they would
both

began immediately to swear, call me the greatest rogue, tell the by-standers that I had written a book full of lies concerning the gaol, and that I was so great a villain, &c. that he would rather have given a thousand pound than I had ever come to his gaol. He observing, that I did not leave off reading, whistled for the hemp-master, who immediately coming, he said to him : Here, take Mr. * * *, and put him to the block, and be sure you keep him close to it. I went with the hemp-master, and consequently to work. At which I had not been more than half an hour before the keeper came into the hemp-shop, and then directing his commands to the hemp-master, he strictly charged him to take care that I did my task ; for that if I did not do what he called my task, he threatened he would put me in the stocks, tie me up at arms length to the posts, or chain me to the block.

WHEN he had finished these menaces, I retorted, that to be sure it was, among other severities, part of my sentence to be kept to hard labour, that is, to beat hemp all day ; but that my sentence had not prescribed how many punnies a-day I was to beat ; and therefore I concluded, that if he the keeper should either put me in the stocks,
tie

both certainly be transported. In the morning, as soon as we were unlocked, my chum went to the two felons, told them what I said, and returning informed me, that as I was their father (for that was the title the prisoners gave me) they would take my advice. One was tried at the Old Bailey, was found guilty, and through clemency ordered to be transported for seven years ; the other for a highway robbery, was tried at Chelmsford in Essex, capitally convicted, and before the judge left that town, as I have been informed, he was ordered to be transported for fourteen years. I have related this fact, to shew the incongruity of sending to and confining felons in this gaol.

tie me up to the posts, or chain me to the block, I would move the court of King's Bench (for I well knew that court would readily relieve me) against him. On which the keeper left the hempshop a little fullen, ordering his man to keep the door locked; and I never heard any more of the like menaces.

WHILE I was ruminating on the ill and savage treatment I was likely to receive from my keeper, a porter brought me a letter from my hearty and indefatigable friend, informing me, that I should certainly be set again at large by the court of King's Bench, on Monday the twenty-eighth following. This gave me great comfort, amidst my new afflictions, or rather the second edition of my imprisonment; but the time came, and I was disappointed.

INQUIRING into the cause of this my disappointment, I was told, that there was not time to apply that term, and that therefore my affair must go over to the next, assuring me, that the first opportunity should be taken to set me at large.

VARIOUS were my thoughts and conjectures on this occasion, which at length concluded, that I was without remedy impounded for at least two months, that is, from Michaelmas to Hilary term.

Now what happened, during this interval, comes in order to be related.

I HAD not been here long before I enquired what good effect my application to the whole body or bench of justices had had towards the reformation and reconstitution of this gaol upon the city plan; as particularly, whether they had determined,

ned, or ever designed : First, By a separation of the men from the women to prevent the continual debauchery (D) thereof. Secondly, By providing of a sufficiency of food to prevent for the future the starvings (E) of the prisoners. And lastly, By
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(D) Evening drawing near, on the day I was re-committed, the keeper called the two lockers, and charged them not to let for the future any woman lie in the long gallery ; for it seems till now they were used, some of them, to lie in two of the close wards, as in No. 1. and 2. see the plan of this gaol annexed to my book of Reasons, &c. This was done by the keeper to prevent the debauchery of the prisoners ; and this I must say, that all the time I was here the second time of my commitment, both he and servants did all they could to prevent acts of fornication ; but this, in the corrupt state of this gaol, is impossible, as will appear from what follows : An apprentice was sent here by his master for absenting himself from his service ; he told me, in the course of three weeks he had had several amours with the girls, particularly with one who then lay in bed ; the time of assignation was after the unlocking in the morning. This same young man told me, that the acquaintances of these girls would come, treat them in the tap, take them out into the shed, &c. and commit their debaucheries. From all which this conclusion must be drawn, that the debauchery of this place can no other way be prevented but by a total separation of the men from the women.

(E) On the twenty-first of February last, one John Howas, about six in the evening perished through want of a sufficiency of food, and proper care. The coroner and his jury sat on the body the next day, when I appeared before them, and alledged, that this poor man died through the want of a sufficiency of food, and proper care. One of the jurors (as I found afterwards in the interest of the keeper) said, I was a madman ; and master coroner added, that it appeared to him, that this John Howas died through the hand and visitation (the common cant of these folk) of almighty God. My design was, That as it was now sessions-week, to get the coroner and jury to join me in procuring a sufficiency of food for the prisoners here, that hereafter no one confined might perish, as did this man, through want. As this my design miscarried, I will however here subjoin the letter on this melancholy occasion, which I sent to the bench of justices then met at Hicks's-Hall on the next day, being Thursday the twenty-third of April, and county-day. Of which this is an exact copy : To

taking from the gaoler or keeper of this prison the illegal privilege of detaining persons (F) in gaol for fees. I could not perceive, either the least reformation, nor could I learn any more than this, that two or three justices came here once, and talked

To the worshipful the Chairman, and the rest of the justices of the peace met at Hicks's-Hall.

Gentlemen,

I Beg leave to trouble you with the following account of John Howas, now lying dead in your gaol.

"On Friday the seventeenth instant Mr. Keeling committed him hither for hard labour as an idle person, wandering in the night, and not giving a satisfactory account how he maintained himself." See his commitment. He was on Saturday put to hard labour, and worked that day; but being in a starving condition when committed, and having neither friend nor other person who could or would assist him, lying on the floor, and having only the county-allowance of a pennyworth of dry bread a-day he lingered, and died on the Tuesday following about six o'clock in the evening through want.

I have therefore, gentlemen, sent you the above fact, in order to excite your compassion, and to induce you to set immediately about the reconstitution of this prison on the plan of the city-house of correction, that so the evils complained of may for the future be remedied. Consider that you treat your very horses better than you do your prisoners; you find them cheerfully good straw to lie on in the night, but your poor prisoners are not allowed either straw to lie on, or (if possessed of one) to bring in their own beds. Perhaps these things are suffered for the benefit of your keeper's beds; but I forbear at present: Cætera desunt. I am with the greatest respect to your office:

Your humble servant.

P. S. I remember to have read the following case, viz. A country sheriff had suffered a man under sentence of death to die for want before the day of execution. The sheriff, for this neglect, was tried, fined and imprisoned. Very remarkable is that saying of an old Latin author, "Nutrire est humanum, punire est politicum, sed fame enecare est crudelissimum."

(F) This is the most cruel and inhumane custom belonging to this gaol; for when the prisoner is arrived at this state he is also without the county-allowance, and usually without also the assistance of his friends, and consequently in a most deplorable, wretched and starving condition, and must often perish,

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talked about building two lodges (c) wherein to put separately men or women who should be brought in, in the night.

It was now, that the misfortunes, hardships and starvings of my fellow prisoners seized me on every side. One told me, he was sentenced to be confined for three months, and had no friend nor other person to assist him in the whole world; another that his time was out such a day, and that he was kept starving without the county-allowance then six days for his fees; and several common prostitutes, who were discharged at Hicks's-Hall, were by the keeper brought back, and detained some five and eight days starving, when there was no possibility of their paying fees.

It was now also that I shed the first tear since my confinement (not for myself or my own misfortunes) on reflecting on the many hardships and cruelties brought on prisoners confined here thro' the negligence (H) and supineness of some former magistrates of this county.

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if it were not for the charity of their fellow prisoners. This cruel and barbarous detainer of persons for gaol-fees is contrary to a statute which says; "That no person or persons shall be detained in prison, after the expiration of his imprisonment, by any gaoler, or keeper of any gaol or prison, or other person or persons whatsoever, on any other pretext or pretence whatsoever, besides the non-payment of his fine to the king."

(c) The building of which would not cost the county a much less sum than would be sufficient to divide this gaol into two parts, as laid down in my Reasons, p. 40—43; and when done would not at all answer the proposed end. The preventing for the future the debaucheries of the prisoners.

(u) I do not blame the present magistrates of this county on the account of the corrupt state of this gaol, I only apply to them to correct the mistakes of their predecessors.

I soon resolved to bestow on the most necessitous, two shillings and six pence a week. This resolution, the next morning I communicated to Mrs. Jones (1), the mistress of the tap, who very readily and generously offered to lay out at market the said sum, and to dress the victuals so bought for the prisoners gratis. This humanity in her increased the value of my donation one third. And here I must beg leave of the reader thus publickly to return her my thanks, and the thanks of the distressed, for her great goodness and kindness to me and to them. And this method of relieving such distressed and starving prisoners (we jointly thought fit) continued till about the fourth of April last, when some little difference happening between Mr. Jones and me in a trifling dispute put a period to it; since which I have been obliged to give away my donations in dry money.

HOWEVER hence resulted this observation, That I found two persons (and if two more could) be supported with a sufficiency of food at two shillings a-head, by the week. This gave the first rise to the following calculation and scheme for employing all persons sent hither as disorderly, in such manner, that the profits of their labour may find them in a sufficiency of food, pay the

(1) I would engage to find, if assisted with the oeconomy, industry and skill in marketting of this woman, forty (more or less) prisoners, a sufficiency of food at two shillings a-head by the week, with this restriction, that the baking shall be performed in this gaol, and the prisoners shall not be found in small beer, but shall drink water, that being the wholesomest of all liquors, as I have elsewhere observed. Note, The provisions here are to be the same in quantity and quality with those found in the city house of correction, unless as above specified.

the salary of the keeper, and defray the necessary expences and repairs of this gaol.

WHILST I was making this calculation, in came four tons and an half of hemp, and soon after a HAUL (as they call it here) of twenty-four molls or whores (κ). This led me to make a calculation

(κ) I wish I could say, and with truth too, that in relation to the caption of these creatures, and the circulation of them through this gaol, there was no trade or artifice used. The reader will however perceive of what utility these hauls are, by a relation of the following matter of fact. The whole haul consisted of forty-five persons, men and women; seven men were sent to serve the king, and thirteen of the women got off before the justice, by proper and seasonable application. So that twenty-four only out of this haul were sent hither, on Thursday the thirtieth of March, to be imprisoned for one calendar month, and to be kept to hard labour. The next day the casekeepers procured and brought hither discharges for four of these molls, and paid their fees, seven shillings and two pence each; and this scheme was practised the following day in behalf of four others, and on the Monday following for five others. It was on this day, that the remaining molls said, they had applied and could not get discharges under five or ten shillings each, besides their fees. The eleven remaining molls went down to sessions, and seven or eight of them were discharged there, and turned out of court, by some secret influence, without paying of fees; but the keeper brought back three; one of whom paid him eight shillings and two pence on the Tuesday following, and on the next day the other two were turned out without fees. Thus did this haul of twenty-four come in and get out in less than a fortnight, and no other advantage did or could accrue to any person by the punishment of these creatures, save to his worship's * * *, and to master gaoler here: many of these farces could I relate were it necessary. There is also another evil now creeping in upon society, and that is, the trading constable; such I call him who serves the office for hire and reward for several succeeding years. This man has got for his assistants, a number of infamous persons, called thieftcatchers. To shew their use take a relation of a fact penned at the time of occurrence. On Christmas Monday last the Beggars Opera was to be acted, when one of these trading constables, to make work and gain

tion of the profits of their labour, which answered fully my expectations.

I WILL now lay before the reader, and the worthy magistrates of Middlesex, my SCHEME for the employment of the disorderly; whereby it will appear, That no person hereafter will be, as has been, starved for want of food, nor falsely imprisoned for the extortion and exaction of fees; and also, That the county will hereby save in expences some hundred of pounds annually.

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for himself and assistants procured a warrant, under pretence of going to the play-house, and there to keep the peace. When he and assistants came there, they found all things quiet, and so they were likely to remain. Thus disappointed they came to a resolution to make a disturbance and riot themselves, which they effected. They possessed themselves of the upper part of the stairs, obstructed the free passage, quarrelled with the comers, and pushed the people with such violence down the stairs, that several were much hurt, and a young man was killed on the spot. Whereupon the constable and his assistants secured twelve persons, and carried them before the worthy magistrate who granted the warrant, when eight persons were discharged through the intermediation of his worship's clerk and master constable, but not (as is said) without paying certain dues, fees and gratuities, &c. which four others not being able to do, were severally on the oath of this trading constable sent hither; three of whom were sent for farther examination, and one for hard labour. They were committed on the Tuesday, and on Thursday, three were carried before his worship and examined, when two of them having behaved themselves handsomely, as the term is, and paid their gaol-fees, were discharged. But the third not being able to pay her fees was brought back hither, and staid till the other two brought her fees, which were several days after. It is plain, that the caption of these offenders by search warrants, high constables, gaolers, &c. is a trade and gain; otherwise, how could it be possible, that the gaoler here should at a weekly expence keep a man continually at the office of a certain magistrate to bring hither such offenders his worship shall please to commit. It is said, other gaolers do the like: this occasions sometimes such quarrelling and contention among the thieftakers, who shall have the prisoner, as is humorous

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S C H E M E

FOR THE

Employment of all persons sent as disorderly to the house of correction in Clerkenwell; shewing, I. That the profits of their labour will find them in a sufficiency of food. II. Pay the keeper an annual salary. And, III. Defray the other expences and necessary repairs of the said gaol. The whole proving, That the COUNTY by the execution of this SCHEME will save several hundred pounds yearly.

Prefatory and admonitory OBSERVATIONS necessary to be noted in the execution of this Scheme.

THE first and most material is, concerning the qualifications of him who is to be the future keeper (L) of this gaol. The keeper must be

miourous enough, though many times the fraction is so great that his worship is obliged to decide, which thieftaker shall have the prisoner. We will therefore here commend those noble, generous and humane reasons, which induced the citizens in the mayoralty of sir John Barnard to put an end to the trading justice in that city, by the appointment of the present rotation of its magistrates to sit daily to administer justice, its happy consequences are notorious. Position, That this scheme is practicable in Middlesex, and would be for the honour of the county.

(L) The right honourable John Barber, esq; when he was mayor of the city of London first taught, or rather revived, the doctrine, That the gaol of Newgate was the freehold, not
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be a man who has lived a sober and regular life. He must be an industrious man, and one who delights in his business: He must be one who perfectly understands the nature of dressing hemp, chopping rags, and spinning of mop-yarn. These qualifications are necessary, because the future keeper is not to live in idleness, and act by deputation. He may have a servant to assist him, but he

of its keeper, but of the citizens, and the house and refuge of the imprisoned; and accordingly, he proposed to his brethren the aldermen, to take away from the keeper of that gaol, the oppressive, cruel and illegal privilege of remanding back prisoners, acquitted at the Sessions-house in the Old Bailey, for fees, and to turn them immediately out of court. Which good custom has remained ever since, as we all know, and many have felt and experienced. His lordship (whilst mayor) once in conversation expressed himself with great concern, that the city had been too much governed by its gaolers and servants; but he added, he hoped he had put a stop to their insolent proceedings. And the worthy magistrates, especially sir John Barnard, sir Robert Willmot, and Stephen Theodore Janssen, etq; have trod in his steps, as had I room I could evince, but for want of that I must leave it to a future opportunity. This glorious example of the citizens has had no effect on the magistrates of Middlesex! they suffer their gaolers and servants to rule, govern, and ride them too at pleasure; and so great is their lippitude in this particular, that they have suffered the keeper of this gaol even to supersede and vacate the orders and regulations they have made for the better government of this gaol, and for the benefit of the prisoners, because he thought, or has found them dissonant to his interest. To give the reader one instance, how much former magistrates of this county have been the dupes of the keeper of this gaol, it is sufficient to say, that they have suffered him to reap all the profits of the labour of the prisoners, though that labour, as I have been credibly informed, hath produced some years, one hundred and fifty pounds; some two hundred pounds; and often three hundred pounds a-year clear of expences: nay lately, they were at the expence of fifty pounds and upwards, to find blocks and beetles for his service. Nothing can be more ridiculous than the lazy custom of magistrates to let gaolers, servants and clerks govern! Who is it that now govern the gaols in this county? not the magistrates, but the keepers, and they govern to their advantage

he is to be paid by himself, and he shall not take any fee or due from any prisoner. A person brought up in a noble family, among the servants whereof, luxury, idleness and debauchery generally abound, or an alehousekeeper, they are not at all fit to be keepers of a house of correction. Above all, he should be a man of humanity, civility, and of a good life and conversation. His wife (for he

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should

to the great oppression of the prisoners. Thus the keeper of this gaol is suffered to let a room (the property of the prisoners) with a cellar under it, for the extravagant sum of twenty-six pounds a-year (besides that the tapkeeper is obliged to pay one of the gatekeepers six shillings a-week, and find him and another a dinner every day in the year) and he the keeper allows the tapkeeper (and the magistrates wink at it) to exact and extort from the prisoners four pence a pot for beer. Another instance of the gaoler and his servants governing the magistrates of this county, is, that they some years (five) ago, in order to serve their own sinister ends, persuaded the magistrates to stop up two fire-places in this gaol, former magistrates provided for the convenience of the prisoners, to the very great detriment and oppression of the said prisoners. Before this time, the prisoners had the convenience of making a fire to do their little necessities, dress their victuals, &c. of all which they are now unjustly as well as cruelly deprived; and all this is done to benefit the tap. Again, Former magistrates of this county made an order of sessions, now extant in the book of articles, That every prisoner confined in the house of correction in Clerkenwell in this county, shall at pleasure bring in his bed and bedding, and use the same during confinement, without the let and impediment of the keeper, or of any other person or persons whatsoever. Now this order, humane and reasonable as it is in itself, the keeper is suffered to pay no regard to: because he rightly concludes, that it would hurt the gain he extorts from the prisoners for lying in his beds; a gain, which, it is computed to be about seventy or eighty pounds one year with another. But, I judge, that the magistrates should cause all their orders to be printed, (I would do it at my own charge, if I had copies of them) and one or two of the copies to be stuck up in this gaol for the information of the prisoners that they may hereafter make use of them; for the author apprehends, that the former orders of sessions were made to be known, and not to be concealed through the artifice, roguery and villainy
of

should not be one who keeps a * * *, by no means) should also be prudent and sober, industrious, well-versed in all family-affairs, skilled in baking, and washing, and likewise a good needle-woman. Now a man of this character will live handsomely and contentedly for one third less the keeper will who keeps his horse, frequents cocking, horse-races, and the fashionable diversions.— Note, The new keeper is to take no fee of a prisoner, either on his commitment, or on his discharge.

of any future keeper. Moreover, at the time the court at Hicks's Hall granted the keeper of this gaol, the annual sum of fifty pounds, in lieu of fees of such persons he could not get them of, it was then ordered, That the keeper should not keep any prisoner for his fees longer than two days; yet notwithstanding such order the keeper has frequently kept prisoners, after the expiration of their several imprisonments, three, four, six and more days. When the bench gave the keeper the above fifty pounds, did not they offer him to make it one hundred pounds a-year in lieu of all fees? Had this been accepted by your keeper, was it not designed, that every prisoner should be turned out, at the expiration of his imprisonment, without the payment of fees? Certainly, the magistracy then thought, or began to think or surmise, that the payment of gaol-fees was oppressive and unreasonable. Note, The keeper of this gaol has had such an influence over former magistrates of Middlesex as to induce them to lay out a great sum (not less than five or six hundred pounds) in building him a house, and other appurtenances; which was quite needless, because till of late years the present two prisons of New Prison and the House of Correction were but one gaol, and under the direction of but one keeper. Why it was divided, no reason can be shewn, save that of the increase of placemen, and consequently the increase of the charge of the county. Lastly, another instance, how far the magistrates of Middlesex have been the dupes of the keeper of this gaol, is, their suffering him to take away from the prisoners upwards of a third part of the ground of the prison-yard, and convert the same into the use of a garden, contrary to the design of those magistrates who first founded this prison, and which also is a great infringement on the rights and liberties, and health of the prisoners. Health, I say, because the more room they have to breathe in, the better it is for them.

charge. As a reward for the duty of the future keeper of this gaol, it will be sufficient to pay him either quarterly twenty-five pounds, or every sessions the sum of twelve pounds ten shillings: extensive and ample salaries and allowances render servants idle, luxurious, above their business, faucy and malapert. This sum of one hundred pounds a-year, paid as above, with a house to live in, free of taxes, will be sufficient; and there are a great number of persons well qualified as above, who would willingly undertake to be keeper of this gaol on the proposed plan. Note, The keeper is not to be allowed to sell wine, beer, or any other liquor whatsoever within the gaol, or within the keeper's house or lodge; the hundred a-year is to be paid the future keeper without the least deduction.

It is proposed, That there shall be, for the future, but one gate-keeper, to whom the county shall pay five pounds a-quarter, or eight shillings a-week. He shall likewise be a sober, diligent, civil man, and of a good reputation. There are enough that will jump at this post. He shall exact no fee or due of any prisoner, on any account whatever. If he shall offend herein, on complaint to any justice of the peace, he shall be removed immediately from his office; and another chosen and substituted in his room. The gate-keeper's place, according to the intent of this Scheme, will hereafter be a very easy one; for when the prisoners are found food, there will be but little occasion, to what there is now, for their friends coming after them.

It is farther proposed, That there shall be a person skilled in surgery and pharmacy to attend and administer to the sick. But if the party hath the foul disease, he shall go and report the case,

and the next justice shall send the party to the Lock, or &c. till cured, when the party shall return to prison, and remain for the time committed, the time of sickness shall be accounted as no part of the time of punishment. He (M) shall live in the neighbourhood of this gaol, and attend on being sent for. For this duty, the county shall pay him the sum of ten pounds yearly.

THERE shall be none but disorderly persons hereafter sent to this gaol; and of these disorderly, who cannot, or who are not willing to, pay the following price for lying in a bed, there shall be found by the county clean straw once a month. But as there will be very few besides such but will lie in bed, this expence I cannot set at more than five pounds a-year.

THE next expence incident to this gaol is necessary repairs, which I compute yearly to come to ten pounds.

FOR lamps, water, lying-in women, coroner, dead persons, and other incidents, the sum of thirty pounds every year.

FOR

(M) Diseases, distempers, casualties and accidents have been invented, multiplied and propagated by our ancestors, inso-much that in this age of total degeneracy and debauchery, it must be allowed, that physic is become as absolutely necessary to society as food; all which appears in the universal encouragement given to every quack medicine and nostrum. The physician hath of late years been so sensible of his utility, that he has been taking measures as effectually to pin himself upon the community, in the same manner the divine and lawyer have heretofore done, by contriving the erection and endowment of hospitals and lazaret-houses in every city and county in this kingdom. So general is the humour among us of erecting and founding such houses, that some have presumed to count it a lunacy, and to pronounce, That the English have some time since been hospital-mad.

For keeping the blocks and beetles in repair, five pounds a-year.

THE greatest expence is the maintenance of all persons sent hither as disorderly. The number of them to be always in the gaol, men and women is computed at forty; for hereafter it is proposed, That all disorderly persons be sent hither, and no one shall be sent to any other house of correction in this county. At two shillings by the week a-head, the sum expended will be four pounds; which being multiplied by fifty-two, the number of weeks in a year, is two hundred and eight pounds.

OUT of this two hundred and eight pounds are to be found, besides eatables, all other necessaries, absolutely wanting, as coals, soap, salt, needles, thread, &c.

NOTE, The matron, who is always to be the keeper's wife, is to bake (N) the bread, and buy the

(N) She must bake, because this will save at least one third of the expence the county is at present at, in finding the prisoners a pennyworth of bread a-day; for after this no baker (as now) will have the opportunity to make fourteen and very often sixteen penny-loaves to the dozen. There is a person or officer now in this gaol called, the matron, whose duty it is to see to lying-in women, but I cannot find, that she is obliged to support the needy woman with necessaries and proper food during her incumbency, but the poor creature is left to the county-allowance of a pennyworth of dry bread a-day. One woman so circumstanced (whilst I have been here) must have perished through want, if she had not been assisted by charitable and well-disposed persons. In this the present gaol is a cruel place. The matron has ten pounds a-year, and a convenient apartment (reckoned to be worth five pounds a-year) over the lodge, for her salary, and she scarce is at other expences yearly than two five shillings to a midwife to lay two women; for no more do lie-in here one year

the meat, and other provisions at the best hand. No small beer is proposed to be found by the county; the prisoners may drink water. So that no contractor, brewer, baker, or other tradesman be employed to serve the house; for that brewer, baker, or tradesman will of course study to make a property of the county, and of the prisoners for his own interest.

THIS makes the whole expence to be three hundred eighty pounds, sixteen shillings a-year.

THUS have I laid before the reader, and the worthy magistrates of Middlesex, a calculation of the expences necessary to find the prisoners a sufficiency of food, pay the salary of the gaoler, and all other expences I can think of.

IT now only remains, that I proceed to shew, in what manner the said forty prisoners are to be hereafter employed, in order to defray the afore-said annual expences.

IT is to be premised, that in the future constitution and construction of this gaol, the men are to be separated from the women; because at least one fourth of their time is lost in their playing together, and in their jesting and obscene talking.

OBSER-

year with another. There was no reason, besides the increase of placemen, (forsooth, I, being most considerable! will have a place of my own creating to fill) for the institution of a matron; when a woman lies-in a midwife should be sent for, do her office; be paid; that charge placed to the county, and the woman taken care of by the matron, who, as is observed before, shall be no other than the keeper's wife. This will be a considerable saving, and defray the yearly expence of the proposed physician.

OBSERVATION, This calculation proceeds upon the supposition of there being here one day with another about forty disorderly persons.

OF these forty disorderly persons, let a fourth or sixth part be men; and let these men be employed only to beat hemp.

THE price for beating hemp is at two shillings, two shillings and six pence, and three shillings a hundred weight. Let a hundred of hemp be made up into thirty punnies, then every punny when beat will fetch one penny. A man may with ease in a day beat eight or ten punnies (o). We will therefore say, these six men shall every day beat nine punnies each; that is, earn nine pence a-piece each day, which is one pound seven shillings a-week, the profit of their labour. And this produces the sum of seventy pounds four shillings yearly.

OUT of the said forty prisoners always to be here, let eighteen of the strongest women be kept to hard labour, and let each of them beat six or seven punnies a-day each, that is, earn six pence a-day a-piece. This will produce in a year one hundred forty pounds and eight shillings.

THEN there will be sixteen prisoners, all supposed to be women, to be employed. Let twelve of them be kept to plain work; and let them earn each, one with another a-day, nine pence. This will produce the annual sum of one hundred forty pounds and eight shillings.

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(o) This they may easily do when found a sufficiency of food; for then neither men nor women as now will for want thereof fall sick, as I have often known them to do, after they have been here starving two or three days.

THE four remaining prisoners shall be attendant on the matron, to assist her in all her lawful commands, in dressing the victuals, in making the beds, and in washing and mending for themselves and fellow prisoners.

THE present keeper's house is proposed hereafter to be let to any one, willing to rent the same, for the annual sum of fifteen pounds; the tenant paying the land-tax and other taxes and rates whatever.

AND the garden, or orchard, now belonging to New Prison, is hereafter to be let on a building lease for twenty pounds (or more) a-year; and every method is to be taken to improve the county-estate.

THE beds and bedding are for the future to be the county's, and beds are to be lain in at three pence a-night for the future; and this sum is likewise to be applied towards the maintenance and support of this gaol. This will produce the annual rent of ninety-one pounds at five shillings a-night, supposing that twenty will out of forty prisoners one night with another lie in bed.

THUS the profits of this gaol will annually be four hundred seventy-seven pounds.

HERE also is a yearly surplus of eighty-eight pounds and four shillings, over and above the disbursements on the account of this gaol.

THUS have I laid before the reader and the worthy magistrates of Middlesex, a feasible Scheme for the future employment of all disorderly persons sent to this gaol; which scheme is now in use in all our American colonies, practiced in every house of correction in the United Provinces,
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and also in the same kind of houses in every part of the kingdom of France.

BUT I am sensible, though a scheme be planned never so accurately, it may be liable to objection, and will be opposed strenuously by some through prejudice to its author, and by others through interest and selfishness; and lastly, by others because they know not why; I shall therefore here state some of those objections which may be raised against it, and refute them in the best manner I can.

FIRST, It will be urged, That the salary proposed as an adequate reward for the service and diligence of the future keeper, is not sufficient for the maintenance and deserts of him, his wife, and servant; and that it will not be worth while to give security for so unprofitable a place.

I ANSWER, That one hundred pounds a-year, with a house to live in, free of taxes and all deductions, and paid either quarterly or every sessions, is a very considerable and beneficial sum. As for the keeper's wife, her trouble will be very little, save to buy provisions, see to the dressing of the victuals, &c. and to order and oversee the women prisoners, and to take the money for persons lying in bed. Should people have salaries, and not do somewhat adequate for them! Is or should the keepership (P) of a gaol be a sinecure, and
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(P) The keeper here gets his bread with less care and more ease than any one (I know) in the commission of the peace; the one has the honour and trouble, and the other the gain, which I have heard reckoned to be here between four and five hundred a-year; but had W. this sum, we should see him in his coat; though I think this insolence, folly and pride in gaolers has been laid aside, ever since the time of Huggins and Bambridge, wardens of the Fleet.

like it visited but once or twice in a year? no: the keeper and his wife should for this reward, one hundred pounds a-year, give constant attendance on this duty. The county may allow him and his wife each the same allowance daily they do the prisoners. As for the hemp-master, or keeper's servant, let the county also allow him a prison-allowance, and let the keeper procure his assistance as they can agree. But note, there are now many men and their wives, in this metropolis, qualified as above, ready and willing to undertake upon the recited conditions. As for security for the discharge of the keepership that will be easily obtained, when there will be no hazard (as there is now) of losing a prisoner; for disorderly persons, knowing the length of their confinement, never meditate escape; they, as I have found by experience, only pray God send such a day. Again, the loss of a disorderly person is of no consequence; and such an one only can escape out of this gaol, for after its reconstitution no other are to be sent here.

SECONDLY, It may be said, That the salary of the future gate-keeper is too small.

ANSWER, Eight shillings a-week (with the county-allowance as above proposed) or twenty pounds a-year is a common reward for this labour. It is true, here is proposed no dues (Q), or other gain whatever.

THIRDLY,

(Q) The gate-keeper shall not, as he does now, exact of the prisoners out of bed, the sum of three pence half-penny each for ward-dues under any pretence whatsoever, nor shall he punish the party not paying, as he does now, by locking him up in the dark hole, or otherwise spitefully and maliciously using him for the nonpayment of such sum. Gaolers, keepers,

THIRDLY, If the house at present assigned for the keeper is to be let for the increase of the county-estate, where is the future keeper and his wife to be lodged?

ANSWER, In the house called the lodge, for there a former tapkeeper and his family dwelt, and that room which served him and family may serve the future keeper and his family. There is no necessity that any future keeper should live in a house fit for a gentleman or nobleman. No; let him know and make him sensible that he is the servant of the county. And it would be necessary, that their worships hereafter when they commit to his custody should stile him only keeper; keeper is his proper title, not governor; the governorship of this gaol belongs only to their worships.

FOURTHLY, The greatest objection is, That the number of disorderly persons sent, and the work also that they are to do, will be very uncertain; and therefore the schemer's calculation is a very random and uncertain one.

ANSWER, The certainty of having continually the number of forty disorderly persons in this gaol, will for the future depend upon the following causes: first, That the person or persons committed be not committed for a less time than a month (R); and not discharged till the expiration

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keepers, nor their servants should not have any interest in the prisoners committed to their charge; they shall not be allowed to depend upon them, or to seek out of them, any part of their maintenance, the county should provide sufficient salaries for the rewards of their several petty duties.

(R) For the future disorderly persons are not to be traded with, as I beg leave to term it; that is, they are not to be committed

tion thereof. Secondly, That for the second offence, the person or persons offending be committed for two months. And thirdly, For the third offence the offender to be committed for three or more months; but yet for a time certain known to the prisoner. I am persuaded, that this method, together with this proviso, that all the disorderly persons hereafter to be committed as such to prison be sent hither, being pursued, there will be always forty, if not more, seldom less, disorderly persons in this place. But, if it should happen, that the number should run at thirty instead of forty, I am sure of this, that the county will not be out of pocket, upon the saving, industrious and practicable scheme I have here proposed. The greatest difficulty of all is, to find them a certainty of work; and this must be done by interest and application. But suppose, that but half the hemp sufficient for the number of hands proposed in the above Scheme can be found; then but half of the number, that is to say, twelve, shall be continually employed in beating of hemp; the other twelve must be employed in chopping rags, spinning of mop-yarn, making of nets, or other such like labour as can be found for them. Some pains and expence too must be taken in the first establishment of so useful and beneficial a Scheme. As for the twelve girls employed in needle-work,

committed for the sake of playing into the hands of the keeper, or any other person whatsoever. The magistrates for the future are to commit with caution, (yet not for a less time than a month) and not to discharge upon the application of case-keepers, or other person but parents, the next day, in two days, a week, &c. or any time till the expiration of the time expressed in his, her, or their commitments. The trade and practice of committing and discharging, as instanced in, in note (K) is for the future never to be practiced by any of the gentlemen in the commission of the peace for this county.

needle-work, knitting, spinning, &c. there are so many different branches thereof that when it is once known and settled there can be no failure of success. Application may be made for the making all the shirts, &c. found for the army; they may make for the sloop-shops, shops, private families, &c. for whoever brings their cloth to be made up in shirts, aprons, &c. ready cut out, will always be sure to have them honestly returned.

AGAINST the sum set down in the calculation, it may be objected, that if the money heretofore taken annually for lying in the keeper's beds amounted to no more than sixty or seventy pounds, when it was at six pence a-night, how is it likely it should produce at three pence a-night ninety-one pounds, which is about a third more?

I ANSWER, That when the common prostitutes sent hither have no provisions to procure, the little cash they come in with, will go to pay for lodging. Nay, as there will be no fees to pay on the expiration of their several imprisonments, the case-keepers and other friends of these common prostitutes will pay for them the three pence a-night; and will frequently engage with alacrity to pay the same. What leads me to conclude this, is, because I have seen this often practiced, though the sum of six pence a-night is a very heavy payment. I am sure of this, that on the supposition there shall always be forty prisoners here, twenty or more, when the price by the night is reduced to three pence, will always lie in bed. Wherefore the county must find three beds on the mens side, and seven beds on the womens side; but let the beds be all so large, as on any emergency to receive three, for that will often happen. Note, In the future constitution of this gaol every thing is
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to be established for the good of the county, and of all future prisoners.

THUS have I answered all the objections I can think of at present against the execution of my Scheme, unless it be one, and that is, that it is proposed by one who is here a prisoner, and sent hither, for reflecting on the incomprehensible articles of the christian faith. But I need say no more to this objection, that my having erred in this particular, is no reason that I am not able to judge, advise and determine in matters of moral rectitude: a man, may be possessed of humanity, compassion, yea, and generosity too! and at the same time, stumble at the reception of certain ecclesiastical incredibilities!

BUT methinks I hear it said, If none but disorderly persons are hereafter to be sent hither, where are we to send the impressed man, and the vagabond, or poor person now sent hither to be passed to the place of his legal settlement? Answer, The impressed man is to be sent here, and he is to have for his subsistence the gaol-allowance, and the six pence a-day allowed by the government for his subsistence shall be paid into the hands of the keeper, and accounted for by him to the county. The vagrant also may be brought hither, but pray let them have straw to lie upon, because some of them have lived well, and borne the heat of the day; and let them also have the proposed county-allowance, that hereafter no (s)
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(s) This was the melancholy and unhappy case of James Buckland a paß, brought in hither on Friday the sixteenth of March last, soon after the contractor had set out for Ridge that day; so that this man was to remain here till the following

one of them be starved. Use them well. Now for these also by the day the statute allows six pence for subsistence, till they can be passed to their settlements; and as they will have the county-allowance, this will be a benefit to the future condition

ing Friday before he could be passed; but on the Thursday following he died through want. He died, I say, through want and hard usage; he was near sixty years of age, the weather being sharp, and pinching cold, and he lying on the bare boards, and having only two pence a-day, and that not the first day, allowed him for subsistence, he died here. Is two pence a day, when provisions are so dear a sufficient sum to support a person? No, says the legislature, for according to the statute every poor person is allowed six pence a-day for his support. And why your worships made an order, on the fourteenth day of July 1757, to reduce the statute subsistence of six pence a-day to two-pence, I cannot find out. Are you wiser than the legislature of this kingdom? It is your duty to relieve the miseries not increase the afflictions of the oppressed. This is cruel usage of the wives and children of men entering either voluntary or impressed into his majesty's service for the defence of this kingdom, its king, happy constitution, its religion, rights and liberties! The conduct of the church-wardens and overseers of the parish of St. Andrew in Holborn, deserves here particularly to be greatly commended;—they never send their poor passes hither till the evening before they are to set out to the places of their settlement, keeping them in their work-house till then; nay, I have known the beadles of this parish bring their poor passes early the same morning the contractor was to remove them out of this county. It has been said, that this is done by order of the vestry of this parish, that no one of their poor passes should be, like others, thus, as above, cruelly, unconstitutionally and inhumanely used and abused. It were much to be wished, that all the other parishes, especially in the neighbourhood of London, would follow so worthy an example, it would, in a great measure, render of no effect, your worships illegal, cruel, unconstitutional and inhumane order. I am persuaded, that your worships would readily excuse me in the use of the above appellatives, if you were here, and in my state, a daily and hourly eye-witness of the many hardships brought on passes, by your order of the fourteenth of July 1757.

condition of this gaol. Thus every method is to be taken to improve the county-stock.

THE allowance hereafter to be found by the county shall be the same allowance by the day now found in the city-house of correction, and distributed at the same time of the day, only the prisoner shall not be found any malt liquor of any sort ; except in the case of a lying-in woman, who shall be allowed such a quantity of ale to make caudle the matron shall judge proper. The prisoners, however, shall not be restrained from having strong beer brought in bottles, pots, &c. and put through a hole made for that purpose in the gate, without the let of the keeper, or of any other person whatever. And the like shall be observed in respect of prisoners bedding (τ) who are not willing to lie in straw, or in the county beds ; which bedding shall also be brought in and used without the let and impediment of the keeper, or of any other person whatsoever.

BUT

(τ) To this it is objected, That the prisoners being at liberty to bring in their bedding will incumber the gaol, and fill it full of lice, filth and nastiness. Answer, This objection is made only by a keeper, and that for the benefit of his beds. There is nothing more in it ; for I have been three months and upwards a prisoner in his majesty's gaol of Newgate, where there were on the felons side, upwards of one hundred and fifty prisoners all men, about twenty-seven of whom were fines, and thirty or forty were transports, and every one laid in their own bedding in the fines-room, and in the two lower wards every one brought in his bedding at pleasure, and I never heard of any inconvenience that arose to them from the above objection. Bedding is every day brought into this gaol without the let of the keeper, of his servants, or of any other person or persons whatsoever, according to the true intent of 2 Geo. II. and why should not bedding be freely brought in here ? If bedding is convenient there, and the privilege of the prisoner, why should it not be so here ?

BUT on the presumption, that the worthy magistrates of Middlesex should come to a conclusion to reform and re-establish this gaol on the proposed or other as good plan, then, on such re-constitution, it will be necessary to appoint a PRESIDENT, or Visiting-Justice (v), who should be annually chosen by a majority of justices, assembled for that purpose, to visit and inspect this house weekly, and see that all those orders and regulations, which have been, or shall be made, by the justices at their quarter-sessions, be observed and kept. And that the prisoners may know how they are to be used, and likewise how they are to behave themselves, let printed tables of such orders and regulations be framed, and put up in the said gaol, one on the mens side, and one on the womens side. And when the said printed tables shall be worn out, and become not readily legible, let others be pasted over them.

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(v) A Visiting-Justice assigned for the purposes mentioned will be of the same use to the prisoners, the eye of the master is to his horse, as the latter will make the horse fat, the former will always keep up good order and decorum in this gaol, make the keeper use his prisoners well, and if any future regulations shall be wanting, he will be able, in the most beneficial manner, to inform his brethren to make them for the good government and benefit of the prisoners. I have been here now (April the twentieth) four sessions, and I have not seen a justice visiting this gaol; I looked for his coming, because I purposed to lay before his worship, the great detriment that does accrue to the health of the prisoners from the present position of the house of office, and of the piss-bowls in the close wards. Since the writing of the above, Mr. HAMMOND with two other gentlemen, came here on the twenty-fifth of April, when I represented to their worships the above great inconveniencies, which I hope will be considered of, and remedied.

I SHALL now conclude with wishing, That the worthy magistrates of Middlesex would set about this great and useful work; and, as I am sure, from experience, it will be of service to all future persons confined here, I shall have therein the only reward I seek.

POSTSCRIPT.

DURING my confinement, I employed myself continually in writing. The duration of which confinement was from the thirteenth of January in the year 1756, till the tenth day of June in the year 1758. In this time I wrote several treatises, which, I judge, will never see the light; but that the PUBLIC may not quite lose the benefit of my lucubrations; and as I have two or three pages to spare, I will set down the titles of such treatises, together with some of their contents, that if there shall be found to be any useful hints in them, they may hereby be conveyed to posterity.

TREATISE I.

Of the city-tithings; were bodies or fraternities of artificers living and supporting one another in community. On what account they obtained of our Saxon kings exclusive privileges. During the continuance of these city-tithings there was no poor person in this city, nor did ever one artificer, in this happy period, die through want; neither the monopolizer, cheat, nor underseller had not as yet entered society. Out of these arose the present corporations and fraternities.

ternities of artificers ; of their first state ; were then few in number of members ; when they were governed first by a master only ; then by master and wardens ; and lastly, by master, wardens and assistants ; and at what time, and on what occasion, they assumed the title of Worshipful, with many other curious anecdotes relating thereto. Concludes with an account of their abuse and degeneracy ; shewing, that the governors of several of these fraternities have imprudently swelled the number of their members, for scarce any other reason than that of filling the pockets of their clerks, beadles, &c. the inconveniencies of this procedure enumerated ; and a remedy proposed for the rectification of these evils for the future, by an entire abolition of court, clerk, and beadle fees.

TREATISE II.

Of the justices of the peace ; the origin and antiquity of the office ; were at first called conservators of the peace, at which time they were annually chosen in the hundred or county court by the freeholders. Lords of manors used to undertake this duty purely to serve their tenants and neighbours. How it came to pass, that the name Conservator was changed into that of Justice, and for the future appointed by the royal commission. Who first found out and practiced the art of the trading justice, and of all those who have from time to time undertaken the office for sinister ends ; one to sell his  ; a second his  ; a third his  ; a fourth his  ; a fifth his  ; a sixth to maintain himself and family ; a seventh to screen his associates ; and an eighth for viler purposes. A scheme for abolishing the trading justice in the county of Middlesex, by the establishment of three daily rotations of justices to sit in three different jurisdictions, for the administration of justice. Of the novel invention of hireling and trading constables ; the salaries of several of them ; how they act, and in their several districts screen offenders, &c. Several secrets told in the conclusion relating to the above subject worth reading.

TREATISE III.

Of thief-takers ; the forty-pound act was the origin of this order of men ; Jonathan Wild the first who practiced the art. Who has followed his example, the gain thereof ; the present state of this order ; their number ; who has divided them, and given them their proper districts, some to patrol the fields, some the squares, and some the principal streets

of this metropolis. That the new order of thief-takers, tho' it was set on foot, and was supported by is notwithstanding unconstitutional. The author's fear, that this order of men may (like privateers in times of peace turn pirates) when they cannot find business to do, turn thieves themselves. Some instances of this sort. Of their late attempt to obtain yearly salaries for the discharge of their duty; and how a thief-taker will soon become as necessary as any other officer in a parish.

TREATISE IV.

Of sheriffs; their origin; were chosen annually in the county-court by the freeholders. How the freeholders lost this great and invaluable privilege. Their nomination ever since in the crown; and what uses corrupt ministers have made of it; the evils thereof never to be remedied. Of the sheriff's court, wherein the sheriff himself used to sit to determine causes. Why this now done by deputation.

TREATISE V.

Of the office of chamberlain in the city of London; the origin and design of the said office; the chamberlain had at first no other reward for the discharge of his office besides a stated salary. That salary never lessened, but rather augmented. When and by what means fees obtained in this court; the chamberlain not authorised to take fees, either by any act of parliament, or of common council. The great hardships that a youth (when he has served the long term of seven years) must have an oppressive load of fees to pay to be entitled to his undoubted right. How many are hereby deprived of being freemen. No harm intended to the present or any future chamberlain. Of the late imposition of a new officer called, a cushion-layer; how he is suffered to pick the pockets of the young freemen. The fees of this (and some other) court a great scandal to the citizens of London.

TREATISE VI.

A relation of the examination of the author of the Reasons for the reformation of the house of correction in Clerkenwell, at Hicks's-Hall, on July 13. 1737. How the reasoner vainly expected measures to be taken for dividing this prison, in order to prevent the continual debauchery of the prisoners, the allowing the keeper a salary in lieu of fees, and of finding a sufficiency of food to prevent the starvings of the prisoners. Why the reasoner was mistaken; and of the measures taken (and by whom) for the re-commitment of the said

said reasoner. Relates also, what passed between the reverend Mr. D——y and the reasoner on the subject of the said reformation; that divine's solid motives for not meddling in this affair set down at large. Ministers of the gospel not civil magistrates. A solution of the following question, Whether it is the interest of a clergy to reform and extirpate the vices and debaucheries, and prevent the miseries of mankind? Concludes with a remark on the folly and simplicity of the reasoner, in expecting, that the bishop and clergy of the church of Middlesex, together with the teachers of the three denominations of Protestant dissenters, should interest themselves, on the publication of his Reasons, in the reformation and reconstitution of the above gaol upon the city-plan. The reasoner's disappointment herein enlarged on, setting forth the probable motives which religiously induced the above pious, reverend and learned persons not to take the reasoner's part.

TREATISE VII.

Of the Saxon courts of justice; were at first held in every soke. When any one had offended he was immediately brought to the hall of the lord of the soke, who as soon as convenient caused a bell to be rung (then on the turrets of their houses) which called the sokemen together on such occasions, when the offender was tried, (acquitted) sentenced and received his punishment immediately. This was also practised in cases of murder, though instances of that kind very seldom happened in these days. At this time no gaols, &c. This was the first state of the Saxon government. Alfred, when he divided counties into hundreds, altered this constitution, and then arose the hundred-court; and he appointed the lord of the hundred, together with the bishop of the diocese or his deputy to sit in such court once a month, to administer justice. From these hundred courts, appeals then also lay to the county courts which were then held either quarterly or oftener. In this period arose, 1. The bishop's prison; and, 2. The county-gaol. Now first arose the grievance of persons lying in gaol a long time before trial. All this time the sheriff's officer nor gaoler had obtained; indeed there were but few prisons in England. This was the second state of government by ecclesiastical and civil magistrates; and now also first began to arise the pleader: the first pleaders were monks. But William the conqueror, when he came to the throne of this realm, separated the ecclesiastical from the hundred and county courts: (which have remained separate ever since) and took
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from the latter divers privileges, and erected what is now called the superior courts; and now it often happened that many persons before the return of the assizes when the judges go their circuits, are kept in prison starving for two, three, four, five or six months; many of whom are, after this long imprisonment, found innocent and acquitted by their country. Every thing in this day of corruption and degeneracy seems to be contrived to harass and oppress, at least, not to benefit, the subject.

TREATISE VIII.

Of the building the gaol of Newgate upon the proposed plan. As the author was a prisoner in the present gaol, upwards of three months, his advice to the city-magistrates on the future constitution of the new gaol, and the government thereof. Proposes, that in the rebuilding of the gaol of Newgate sufficient room be made for the reception of all felons, that so the prisoner be not harassed with removals, and the great inconveniencies of being circulated through different gaols. Another spot, out of the town, recommended on which to erect the new gaol; and why.

TREATISE IX.

Of the orphan-debt in the account of the chamber of the city of London; the interest of this debt amounts to four thousand pounds a-year: two thousand pounds of which are paid out of the city-rents, and the other two thousand pounds raised on the inhabitants. Indeed, in the mayoralty of John Barber, esq; he persuaded the aldermen to pay the whole interest out of the city-rents, and so it continued till his death, when the old custom of raising two thousand pounds annually upon the inhabitants was immediately revived, and which has continued ever since. About four hundred thousand pounds have been paid by the citizens for the interest of this paltry, scandalous debt; and though almost a century is past since its contraction no steps have been taken to pay off any part of the principal; probable reasons why this has not been so much as once attempted. Pecuniæ obediunt homines. Mr. Barber's proposal to apply to parliament for to enable the city of London to pay off this scandalous (he used to call it so) debt.

TREATISE X.

Of debts under five pounds. Innumerable inconveniencies, charges, mischiefs, hardships and imprisonments might be prevented by an act to provide, That all credits under the
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sum of five pounds should not be recoverable, either in the courts of conscience, or in the sheriffs courts, or in any other court whatsoever. The act to commence the Lady-day two years after the signing of the said act, that the people may be perfectly acquainted with the purport of it. One convenience or benefit of such act would be, that the purchaser, or dealer, would save near a fourth of his money, by this method of procedure. The only objection to it, the projector can think of, is, that the proposed act will hurt the practice of the law; but this will be none but to lawyers, who indeed are no better than cannibals. It will not hurt the practice of the superior courts, but rather benefit them. To which is added, A digression concerning transportation. The number of persons of both sexes annually transported. For what small crimes transported. How friends and acquaintances contrive the transportation of many of their dependents, &c. Several stories recited here of such contrivances. Our colonies a great drain upon the mother-country. That the vices, manners and customs of London, and the trade and commerce thereof are continual drains upon all other parts of the kingdom; and that if it was not for the daily flux of strangers from Ireland, Scotland, and many other kingdoms, England would soon be depopulated. Concludes with a soliloquy, wherein the author discovers that he is neither a divine nor a politician. Reflects on the miseries of mankind; by what a number of moral evils and contrivances (many instances given) ancestors have rendered uncertain and slippery every state, degree and stage of human life, which he thinks has made absolutely necessary that celebrated caution, written in a book the most read of all books, to wit: "Let him that standeth, take heed lest he fall."

TREATISE XI.

A scheme for the erection of county-workhouses for the employment and maintenance of the poor in the several counties of this kingdom. One proposed to be built in the county of Middlesex, for the city and county poor, to be under the direction and management of the lord mayor, aldermen, five justices of the peace, and the eldest or upper churchwarden of every parish, all for the time being: to which may be added, as many of the nobility and gentry, resident in the county, as shall please to meet on this occasion, provided always that the bishop of London and his dean be of the number. No less than thirteen to meet for the dispatch of business. This house is proposed to be built
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from the latter divers privileges, and erected what is now called the superior courts; and now it often happened that many persons before the return of the assizes when the judges go their circuits, are kept in prison starving for two, three, four, five or six months; many of whom are, after this long imprisonment, found innocent and acquitted by their country. Every thing in this day of corruption and degeneracy seems to be contrived to harass and oppress, at least, not to benefit, the subject.

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on Hounslow-heath, in the most commodious and convenient part thereof: let so much ground be encompassed for this purpose, as shall be thought sufficient for arable and pasture lands for the breeding of cattle of all kinds, and for the produce of grain for the service of the poor. This spot is not to be walled in, but to be circumscribed by the diversion of the course of one of the rivulets which runs cross this heath, over which there shall be but one way of entrance. It is computed, that the advancement of two years poor rate, from every parish in the city and county, will be sufficient to erect the buildings, workhouses and places that shall be wanting. The height of the building not to exceed twenty feet, built of brick, strong, and flat roofed. It is also computed, that the number of the poor, men, women and children, will usually be about, twelve thousand. In the conclusion, it is demonstrated, that no poor person will stand a parish in a greater sum by the week than six pence, or twenty-six shillings a-year: so that the whole poor-rate for the county will not exceed sixteen thousand pounds.—For example, if the parish of A has fifty poor persons in this house, then that parish is to pay weekly one pound five shillings, that is, sixty-seven pounds ten shillings a-year.

TREATISE XII.

Of ecclesiastical affairs: a proposal for the new-forming and reconstitution of the police of the church of England; exemplified in a plan of behaviour and action recommended to be observed, as a specimen, in the diocese or church of London. The plan here set down is no other than that laid down by Christ in his gospel, by Paul in his epistles, and by the primitive fathers in all their writings. 1. The bishop, dean and prebends are to be resident near the cathedral, are to attend divine service twice every day, and duly preach the word of God. 2. These are, for the future, to educate for their successors, as many young men, being natives of this diocese, as shall be wanted, in every cathedral according to that excellent scheme laid down by Cranmer. It is computed, that the tenths and first-fruits in every diocese will defray the expence. 3. The whole tithe of the diocese is to be consolidated, and equally divided between all the incumbents, for hereafter there shall be no pluralist, nor half-starved clergymen, who are now a great scandal to the function. 4. The diocese shall be divided into deanries; each deanry to contain ten parishes, over which the senior incumbent shall preside. 5. The clergy shall rise by seniority, &c. &c. &c.

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